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New Friday THE JERUSALEM POST

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Design: Ofer Zemach

Man accused of killing wife, son in staged car crash

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

What appeared to be a tragic car accident that caused the deaths of a mother and son before dawn yesterday in Haifa, turned out to be a double murder which police suspect was perpetrated by the husband and father.

Police suspect that Acre residents Rozalia Kantor, 37, and her 13-year-old son, Roman, were murdered in a staged car accident, when the car was forced off the road and down a wadi, then set alight to hide the crime.

Acting on suspicions by fire investigators, police arrested Ya'acov Kantor, 39, who they said confessed hours after he was detained. Police said Kantor told them he and his wife had quarrelled over a romantic dispute and decided to go for a drive to cool off and settle the matter.

At the last minute, the couple's younger son said he felt unwell and was unable to sleep and asked to join them; their second, 17-year-old son remained at home.

According to police, Kantor said that as his wife drove along the road, he jostled her arm, causing the car to swerve to the road's edge, then jumped out before it rolled over the edge into the wadi. Police said he had been sitting in the backseat with his son.

Kantor then allegedly climbed down the eight-meter drop to the overturned car and set it alight. Police say it is uncertain whether his wife and son were already dead before the car was torched. Their bodies were taken to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute for autopsy.

Kantor is to appear before the Haifa Magistrate's Court today where police will seek to extend his remand.

Early yesterday morning, Haifa police said the suspect called the traffic division twice to express concern over the whereabouts of his wife and son. He gave them his name and address and asked for assistance in finding them, saying he feared they had been involved in a traffic accident.

At approximately 4:45 a.m. a truck driver notified the Fire and Rescue Department of a burning vehicle that had rolled off Dori Road some 150 meters from the Checkpost junction. Police arrived at the scene as firefighters were quelling the flames and removing the charred bodies from the overturned vehicle.

Ch.-Supt. Eli Maman, head of the traffic division, said investigators began to suspect that the crash was criminally motivated, based on skid marks and the fact the gas tank was open.

Police traced the vehicle to Kantor, who was immediately detained for questioning. They said he at first gave conflicting responses that did not match their findings, and later confessed. He also reenacted the alleged crime.

Channel 2 reported that the couple had quarrelled after the wife had discovered that her husband had a lover.

According to reports, the couple immigrated from Russia in 1991 and the husband had a previous record.

US firm buys 5% stake in Bank Leumi

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Capital Group Companies, the third-largest mutual funds management company in the US, has accumulated holdings of 5.26 percent in Bank Leumi, Israel's second-largest bank confirmed yesterday.

The US holding group's investment is valued at some NIS 511 million, based on the current market value of Bank Leumi.

Capital Group spokesman John Lawrence refused to comment on the statement, saying that the company does not comment on its holdings.

He told *The Jerusalem Post*, however, that the company is not looking for short-term investments. "We are not in the business of buying control," Lawrence said. "We view our investments as long-term ones."

Under the regulations of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, a company with holdings of over 5% in a publicly traded company becomes a party of interest and as such has to report to the TASE about its holdings.

The fact that the company decided to buy slightly more than 5% raised speculation that it wanted to improve its position ahead of the planned sale of a controlling stake in Leumi.

However, industry sources familiar with the company dismissed the speculation, saying that Capital Group purchased the shares as a financial investment.

The 68-year-old Los Angeles-based company specializes in portfolio management services mainly on behalf of large-scale institutions with assets under management of over $400 billion. The company's US Mutual Funds family is the third largest in the US and holds investments all over the globe. The company manages more than 10 million shareholders' accounts and provides investment services for thousands of corporations, banks, trust companies, and retirement plans.

The fund participated in a "road show" last summer in Europe in which Bank Leumi was presented to foreign institutional investors ahead of its public offering on the TASE.

It is widely believed that the main part of Capital's stake was acquired from US Investment House Lehman Brothers, which acquired from the government last month a combined 4% stake, after winning two successive public tenders issued to foreign investment houses.

Lehman announced then that it sold the shares within hours to institutional investors. It can therefore be assumed that the shares were sold to Capital Group.

Analysts welcomed the deal saying that it emphasizes the confidence of the international financial community in the Israeli economy as a whole and the banking sector in particular.

SHABBAT	BEGINS	ENDS
Jerusalem	5:07 p.m.	6:20 p.m.
Tel Aviv	5:25 p.m.	6:22 p.m.
Haifa	5:17 p.m.	6:21 p.m.
Beersheba	5:23 p.m.	6:22 p.m.
Eilat	5:25 p.m.	6:22 p.m.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right) welcomes US Defense Secretary William Cohen (center) to Jerusalem yesterday, as Defense Minister Moshe Arens looks on. (Brian Hendler)

85 hurt in second day of Gaza riots

By BEN LYNFIELD

Eighty-five people were wounded, most of them Palestinian policemen, as demonstrators in the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah clashed yesterday with security forces for the second day.

Stones and cries for revenge pierced the air during one of the worst inter-Palestinian showdowns since the arrival of the Palestinian Authority five years ago.

The area of the clashes was closed to journalists for most of the day, but just outside it blue police ambulances could be seen speeding the wounded away as hundreds of reinforcements waited on roadsides for the order to join the fray.

Witnesses said rioters pelted police with stones and bottles and that they responded with gunfire, tear gas, and clubbings.

The anger was set loose initially by a death sentence issued Wednesday by a military tribunal against Raed Attar, a former member of Izzadin Kassam, the Hamas armed wing.

He was found guilty of killing Preventive Security Service Col. Rifa'at Judeh last month. But yesterday's rage appeared to have more to do with the slaying of teenagers Ala Hams, 17, and Hamis Salameh, 18, during protests after the verdict was announced.

More than 70 policemen were treated after being hit by rocks and about 15 protesters were injured, according to medical workers.

In Rafah refugee camp, Abed Salameh, the older brother of Hamis, vowed personally to take revenge against the policeman who shot and killed his brother – unless he is tried and put to death.

"Once I take my blood for him, when I get revenge, I can celebrate, not just mourn," he said. "I want the PA to give me my brother's blood or ...." he threatened, writing four dots on a piece of paper. "I have two hands, my brother has two hands, and my second brother has two hands."

Asked about Palestinian Police chief Gen. Ghazi Jabali's statement that IDF soldiers were responsible for his brother's death, Abed Salameh replied: "This is more than just a lie. Ghazi Jabali and people like him advised the killer to kill. They give the orders."

On Wednesday, the military tribunal also sentenced Mohammed Abu Shamaleh, 25, to life imprisonment with hard labor and Osama Abu Taha, 24, to 15 years hard labor as accomplices in Judeh's murder. Israel says that the two, along with Attar, planned attacks in Israel and were responsible for the murder of Lt. Guy Ovadia in Gaza five years ago.

At Attar's house, relatives said they were pinning their hopes on a reprieve from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. He left on a trip to Britain yesterday without signing the execution order.

Arafat appears to be caught between the desire of senior security officers to show that death awaits those who kill police, and concern that an execution will fuel more rage in the streets. Judeh's unit, the Preventive Security Service, is a mainstay of the PA regime.

Suad Attar, a cousin, complained that Raed had not received a fair trial. She considered him a hero for his role in Hamas during the intifada. And she recalled that after the arrival of the PA, Attar had joined its security forces.

"If he is executed, than all the people will make an intifada, not against Israel, against the authority," she said.

"With blood and spirit we will redeem you, Raed," chanted small children outside the Attar home.

But outside the Judeh house, on the other side of Rafah, relatives sitting in a mourning tent made clear they are counting on the death sentence. "We want rapid implementation," said Khaled Judeh, Raed's brother.

Six journalists were detained for several hours by Palestinian security forces after they tried to cover the clashes.

News agencies contributed to this report.

US Senate to Clinton:

No to unilateral Palestinian state

By HILLEL KUTTLER, DANNA HARMAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The US Senate yesterday passed by 98-1 a resolution calling on President Bill Clinton to oppose a unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood.

American and Palestinian officials in Washington also denied yesterday Israeli press reports of a possible delay in Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's scheduled March 23 meeting with the US president.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, after much speculation as to why US Defense Secretary William Cohen had not scheduled a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his trip here, the two did end up meeting, at Cohen's request.

In remarks afterwards, Cohen did not refer to reports he had wanted to avoid meeting with Netanyahu in order to register dissatisfaction with incomplete implementation of the Wye accords by Israel. He did, however, say the US wants to "lend [its] support for the Wye accords, their full implementation."

Cohen said his presence in the country indicates the administration's "continued strong support for Israel's security."

Netanyahu said he was not concerned by the US announcement yesterday that it would be selling Egypt $3.2 billion worth of advanced jets, tanks, and rockets.

Shortly before arriving, Cohen said the Pentagon was ready to sell Cairo 24 F-16 fighter jets, 200 M-1A1 tanks, and 32 advanced Pac-3 Patriot missiles worth a total of $3.2b. Cohen said this deal would be funded from the $1.2b. annual military aid the US grants Egypt.

"Israel and Egypt are at peace and have been for over two decades since the signing of the Camp David accords... [which] involved the shifting of Egypt away from Soviet arms to Western arms, American arms... so there is nothing particularly new here," said Netanyahu.

A senior defense official yesterday also played down Cohen's arms commitments to Egypt, telling *The Jerusalem Post* it was "old news."

He said while it is true Israel does not have the Pac-3 Patriot, he does not think they would soon feature in Egypt's arsenal, since they have still not been fully developed. He noted the aircraft deal had been previously announced.

Speaking after a meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, Cohen said Egypt would feel insulted if the US rejected its requests for advanced military equipment.

The arms sale offer was the latest of several by Cohen to Arab allies of the US during his nine-nation trip to the Middle East.

Cohen added after his meeting with Netanyahu that US support for Israel would "remain stronger even in the future... we are committed to Israel's qualitative edge and military capability to protect its people."

Netanyahu stressed that the most pressing common threat to peace in the region, and peace in the world, is that of the development of ballistic missiles and non-conventional warheads.

Defense officials noted that, while it appeared that Cohen was handing out offers of weapons and funding to each nation on his Middle East tour, most of the deals had already been announced.

Today, Cohen is expected to detail in his meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens the commitment of a third Arrow 2 battery.

Cohen is also expected to have breakfast with Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai at a Tel Aviv hotel, and meet Labor Party leader Ehud Barak.

Latvian immigrant charged with spying for KGB

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Valery Kaminsky immigrated here from Riga in 1977 to spy on Israel for the KGB, according to a charge sheet presented yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court.

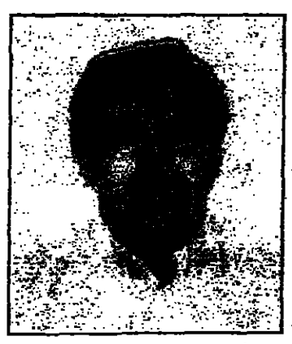
The KGB recruited Kaminsky in 1975 and, before he moved here in 1977, he signed an agreement to work for the Soviet secret police. After immigrating, he went abroad to meet with KGB agents, the charge sheet said.

According to Channel 1, Kaminsky worked for the IAF at Tel Nof Air Base, and admitted to contacts with Russian agents. He is reportedly accused of handing over information provided by his son, who served in a secret IDF unit and had access to classified material.

Yesterday's case is hardly an isolated incident. Shabtai Kalmanovich, who immigrated in 1970, made friends with dozens of influential Israelis and spent five years in jail from 1987 on similar charges before quietly being released and returned to Russia.

Anatoly Gendler and Roman Weissfeld, who immigrated here in the early Eighties, currently are in jail for their KGB activities. Gendler, who was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment in 1997 as part of a plea bargain, said then that if he had refused to work for the KGB, he would have endangered his relatives who were still living in Russia.

"More than a million immigrants came to Israel from Russia," Absorption Ministry spokesman Yehuda Glick said last night. "If I were the KGB, I'd see this as a good opportunity. I hope nobody uses this against the Russian community. I think responsible people won't."



Valery Kaminsky (Barkai Wolfson)

Kaminsky, 54, of Rishon Lezion, was charged with spying for a hostile country, passing information harmful to the state, and meeting with agents of a hostile state. He was remanded until March 21.

"He denies the charges in the indictment. He says he is a Zionist Jew who worked on behalf of the Jews in Russia. He moved here from Zionist motives and we hope that this will become clear," said one of his lawyers, Gil Dachoach, who is representing Kaminsky along with Sassi Gez.

"Due to of the veil of secrecy over crimes like this we can't make public his entire defense," Dachoach added.

News agencies contributed to this report.

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NEWS
in brief

Mordechai contradicts Sharon in Ben-Gal case

Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai testified to police yesterday in the fraud investigation of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avigdor Ben-Gal, and did not support their testimony. Police wanted to know whether Mordechai, as defense minister in 1997, had known of Ben-Gal's visit to Russia with Sharon, who said Ben-Gal had gone on security-related business as chairman of the board of Israel Aircraft Industries. Mordechai apparently told police he had not known of Ben-Gal's trip and to the best of his knowledge it was not connected with security matters, Itim reported. The investigation centers around whether Ben-Gal changed his view of Sharon's motives in the Lebanon war in return for business favors.
Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

Security forces arrest soldier's attacker

The IDF in conjunction with the General Security Service and Israel Police has arrested the Palestinian who was filmed stoning Cpl. Assaf Myara in the head last December near Ramallah.

The IDF identified the suspect as Yusef Abu Kmar, a resident of the Jabaliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and a former student at Bir Zeit University. The army said he was the ringleader of the mob and that a number of other Palestinians suspected of being involved in the attack were also detained. Myara was criticized for not trying to shoot his way out of the reach of an angry Palestinian mob.
Arieh O'Sullivan

Sharansky to sign US-Israel antitrust agreement

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky will sign an antitrust agreement here Monday with US Attorney-General Janet Reno, American Embassy officials said yesterday. He and Jordan's Ambassador to the US will then appear at a trilateral ceremony at which US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky will declare the "Gateway" area near the Jordan-Israel border a "qualified industrial zone," that exempts goods produced there from American tariffs. Sharansky is also to participate in Tuesday's semiannual meeting of the US-Israel Science and Technology Commission. *Hillel Kuttler*

Tze'elim report may be public on Sunday

State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg's report on the 1992 Tze'elim 2 training accident is expected to be made public as early as Sunday evening. Labor MK Yossi Katz, chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, said last night.

Katz said on Sunday Goldberg and IDF representatives will meet with the committee to approve parts of the report for release. Those sections will then be reprinted and released, first to the families of the five soldiers killed in the accident, and then to the public.
Nina Gilbert

Netanyahu promises post for Shalom

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday promised that MK Silvan Shalom, No. 2 on the Likud list, will be given a senior ministerial post if he wins the elections. Netanyahu made this promise to Likud activists from Beersheba, who met with him at his office.
Danna Harman

PM, Barak pan EU stance on J'lem

By DANNA HARMAN

Both Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak denounced as unacceptable the European Union's refusal to treat Jerusalem as part of Israel.

German Ambassador Theodor Wallau, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the EU, wrote in a letter that the EU deems Jerusalem a separate entity from Israel and that European diplomats are not constrained by Israeli political directives there.

Wallau was responding to a letter faxed by the Foreign Ministry last month to all diplomatic missions demanding that they neither "encourage nor hold meetings with Palestinian Authority officials in east Jerusalem."

In the Foreign Ministry letter, mission heads were reminded that the Jerusalem issue is to be discussed only during the final status talks, and that according to the interim agreements, the PA is forbidden from operating in Jerusalem. "Holding meetings in east Jerusalem – whether at the Orient House or elsewhere – is a clear violation of the agreement," the letter read.

Wallau responded that the EU views Jerusalem as a "corpus separatum" – a separate entity – based on the 1947 UN Resolution 181, and therefore there were no plans to comply with Israeli requests not to meet with Palestinians there.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Israeli letter had been sent when it became known that Palestinian Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Husseini had invited foreign ambassadors to the Orient House to be briefed on the peace process. However, sources both at the German Embassy and the Foreign Ministry indicated that the timing of the Foreign Ministry letter, as well as the leaking of the EU response, were politically motivated.

One diplomat said that the EU's position has long been known to Israel, and that Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon purposefully pushed them to spell it out, so that Netanyahu could bring it into political debate and show off his hard-line, and popular, position on the matter.

If Netanyahu had any such intentions, however, they were soon thwarted, as Barak immediately stepped into the debate, lashing out at the EU, and sounding every bit like Netanyahu himself.



Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon (right) welcomes Turkish Parliament Speaker Hikmet Cetin to his office yesterday. (Gideon Markowitz)

Barak sent out his own letter to German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer expressing his "concern and disappointment" with the EU's position.

"There is a wide national consensus, whether the Europeans like it or not, about Jerusalem being our united, sovereign capital of Israel forever, period," said Barak, speaking to foreign journalists.

"I want to say this as clearly as possible," said Netanyahu yesterday, repeating himself on three separate occasions, "that we categorically reject the European position regarding Jerusalem."

Officials at the German Embassy in Tel Aviv, meanwhile, seemed taken aback by the harsh reactions, saying that the letter was but a "note verbal," that is, a low grade communique meant to clarify a long-standing position. "It was a reaction to an Israeli initiative, and nothing more or nothing less than a restating of the international legal position on the status of Jerusalem," said embassy spokesman Christian Heldt.

Reuters adds from Rabat:

Officials from four Moslem countries and the Palestinian Authority will start a worldwide fund-raising campaign to finance projects in east Jerusalem, the Moroccan news agency MAP said yesterday.

Assad: 'Sooner or later' we will regain the Golan

By NINA GILBERT

Syrian President Hafez Assad said yesterday in Damascus he was confident that "sooner or later we will regain our occupied land in the Golan, however strong the aggressors are."

Speaking in the ceremony celebrating his re-election to a fifth seven-year term as president, Assad said efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East have "failed due to Israeli policies that reject the peace principles and continue the policy of annexation and settlement."

"Some people talk about peace with Israel at a time when we reject peace among ourselves," said Assad, and urged unity among Arab nations.

National Religious Party leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday while touring the Golan region that since Syria won't accept anything less than all of the Golan Heights, Israel should keep the entire region.

The NRP "won't agree to give up even one meter of the Golan Heights," said Levy. "The trade-in that is being talked about today, to buy security for the North in exchange for part of the Golan, is totally unacceptable," he added.

Levy also said he was concerned that many politicians are connecting the situation in Lebanon to the need to make concessions on the Golan Heights.

Levy was touring the Golan Heights and Tiberias as part of the NRP effort to keep its voters from going to the new right-wing nationalist bloc being formed.

Although Levy denied the bloc poses a threat to the NRP, Knesset observers have predicted former NRP MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel, who moved to the bloc, are likely to take their Knesset seats with them.

Herut, Tekuma and Moledet came very close to closing a unity deal yesterday, but were delayed by disagreement over who would fill the eighth through 12th slots on their list. The sides were due to meet again through the night, with the aim of concluding a deal today. In the list's top seven slots are: Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Herut), Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet), Hanan Porat (Tekuma), Michael Kleiner (Herut), Benny Elon (Moledet), Zvi Hendel (Tekuma), and Uri Ariel (Tekuma). *News agencies contributed to this report.*

US denies delay of Arafat-Clinton March 23 meeting

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON – American and Palestinian officials here yesterday denied Israeli press reports of a possible delay in Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's scheduled March 23 meeting with President Clinton.

According to the rumor, the US was seeking a delay to allow it more time to convince Arafat not to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state when the five-year interim period expires May 4.

A senior US official said no thought has been given to changing the Arafat-Clinton meeting. "There's neither an expectation or understanding that any of this would happen on March 23," he said.

The PLO's chief representative in Washington, Hassan Abdel Rahman, yesterday called the suggestion "totally inaccurate" and said the session "will take place on the 23rd" as planned.

"I just spoke to the White House a few minutes ago" and received no indication a delay was contemplated, Abdel Rahman said.

Arafat has recently been gauging world leaders' opinions on possibly declaring a state, and his meeting with Clinton is consistent with that aim, the US official said.

From the US perspective, "the general message is we believe that all unilateral acts by both sides are not helpful to the process, and that a unilateral declaration of independence is not in the spirit of the negotiations," and Clinton will make that point known again to Arafat, he added.

Douglas Davis and AP add:

Arafat met in London last night with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They had "an hour of warm and friendly talk" on the Wye agreement, a Downing Street spokesman said. "Yasser Arafat and his colleagues set out the Palestinian view of where this has got to," he said. "They briefly discussed the forthcoming Israeli elections."

There was speculation in London that Arafat would seek British support for an explicit European Union pledge to recognize a state at a later date, possibly on January 1, 2000.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 658460 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 289301 won the car. Tickets and 623570, 888904, 674391, 137377, 526747, 619729, 030555 won 734795 NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 47426, 31506, 48729, 87138, 60195, 29058, 33811, 28101, 64983, 28101, 64983, 51602, 92755, 55370, 01179, 09491, 96424, 60098, 26485, 04515 and won 37209 NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 103, 616, 883, 200, 537 and 806 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 41, 60, 30 and 21 won 30 NIS. Tickets ending in 39 and 76 won 25 NIS. Tickets ending in 2 and 7 won NIS 11.

In last night's late Chance draw the winning cards were spades - Jack, hearts - queen, diamonds - queen, clubs - 10.

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Election

Arab leaders show support for Deri

By NINA GILBERT

Shas leader Aryeh Deri was inundated with praise yesterday from dozens of Arab leaders who came to boost Arab sector votes for the party, and to show their support for Deri as his trial on corruption charges nears conclusion.

"*Ahlan wa-sah'lan*," (welcome), said Shas representatives, each in turn, to their guests, who came from around the country to the party's Jerusalem headquarters. They reciprocated with chants of "Aryeh, Aryeh," and calls for his acquittal.

The verdict in the trial, which started in 1993, is to be handed down next Wednesday. Deri is charged with bribe-taking, fraud and breach of trust.

"Thank you for your good wishes [for the trial]," Deri told the leaders. "I hope that they will come true... Whatever happens, it is for the best."

Aiming to tap into the sizable Arab electorate, Deri said Shas has done more to solve their problems than the Arab parties whose MKs "went on visits to Jordan, Syria, and Egypt and filed parliamentary queries."

What unites the Sephardi and Arab sectors is the fact that they are both underprivileged, he added. "Much has been done by Shas," he said, but "there are still many problems... and I will not rest until this injustice has ended."

"One of the first things [Shas spiritual leader] Rabbi Ovadia Yosef taught me was that all men are created in God's image. It doesn't matter what nationality you are," Deri noted.

He also assured the leaders Shas will be in the next government, and will continue the peace process with the Palestinians and Syria.

"What is needed," Deri said, "is for the Sephardi population, which



Aryeh Deri (Efraim Kilshtok)

shares a common culture with the Arabs, to make the peace."

Deri said he believes that the Right and not the Left should head the next government, "because the Right can make peace among the people of Israel, which is necessary for making peace with the Arabs," he said, notably avoiding to mention Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by name.

The delegation of some 80 Arab, Beduin and Druse leaders came from towns, cities and villages in the Galilee, Triangle and the Negev which have benefited from improvements in infrastructure and other areas since Shas took control of the Interior Ministry in 1988.

Interior Minister Eliahu Suissa said he was only following Deri's example. "As opposed to the other parties, we didn't [only] talk about making a revolution in the Arab sector. We made a revolution."

Shas won an estimated 15,000 votes from the Arab sector in the 1996 elections, and is aiming to double that amount in the May elections. Deri said he even hopes for Shas to secure two or three Knesset seats on the strength of Arab sector votes.

The party has set up a campaign team for the Arab sector, headed by Suissa. One tactic has been the production of a party campaign jingle in Arabic.

The leaders said they would go door to door in Arab villages to enlist votes for Shas. Jawal Abutomi, former head of the local council in Baka al-Gharbiya, near Hadera, said the "Arab sector wants everything that we deserve. [In Shas] we have an address and someone who listens."

Afu Fuad, head of a local council representing 5,000 residents of villages near Karmiel, said he felt that he "had to return the favor" to Shas for the improvements the party has brought about for his community.

Shfaram Mayor Issam Yassin added: "Shas is a party that cares for the weak."

Meanwhile, Shas announced yesterday that pupils from Shas schools are scheduled to assemble at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City on Sunday, to pray collectively for Deri's acquittal.

Good for Netanyahu, bad for the Likud

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

The expected verdict in the Aryeh Deri trial next week will be a boon to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's reelection bid, but it could prove devastating to his Likud Knesset list. The court's actual ruling - guilty, innocent or something in between – is immaterial.

What happens to Deri the man is only a catalyst in the big looming political drama.

Netanyahu and the Likud plainly do not have the slightest connection to whatever misadventures initially got Deri into hot water. In fact, when his alleged misdeeds were reportedly perpetrated, Deri was not even hanging out with Netanyahu and the Likud.

In those days Deri was all but the protege of Labor's Haim Ramon.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef may be Deri's spiritual mentor, but Ramon was his political patron and tutor. The pivotal Ramon connection is largely what catapulted Deri to such rapid prominence.

It is difficult to forget his key role in the 1990 Ramon-inspired "stinking maneuver" to topple the Likud-led national unity government.

Deri's inclinations changed only after he realized, as any politician must, that he cannot go against the natural tendencies of his electorate. Shas won its votes at the Likud's expense and it would take very little to push its voters back into the Likud's arms. This is why Shas had to get out of the Rabin coalition and why it had to tacitly endorse Netanyahu in 1996.

Because of the current chumminess between the Likud and Shas, the Likud cannot but be affected by the Deri verdict, whether he is exonerated or convicted. In an ideal world, political considerations would have no bearing on legal decision-making, while political reality would be strictly divorced from judicial processes. But in our imperfect world, cross-influences abound, even if high-minded judges decree that they should not.

It is hard to assume that the judges who chose to read their verdict just as the democratic process was kicked into high gear, were oblivious to the glaring likelihood that a decision in so politically-loaded a case would trigger enormous political fallout.

Most obviously it would affect Shas's own fortunes. During nine years of investigations and legal entanglements, Deri's tarnished reputation did not adversely affect his party.

Quite the contrary. Shas prospered impressively, though part of its growth must be attributed to its ingenious perks network and educational infrastructure, as well as to the new electoral system which allows a split ticket. Yet the primary, virtually axiomatic, consensus in all political quarters is that Shas is in a win-win situation. If Deri is convicted, the outraged party faithful will register their protest by voting for his list. If he is cleared, they will flock to Shas exultantly.

Because Shas has always expanded its empire at the Likud's expense, any Shas electoral success cannot but injure the Likud. Not all Shas voters are haredi, and both Shas and the Likud dip into the same voter pool for support. If in coming days Shas becomes the focus of an emotional whirlwind, these voters could be tempted to opt for Shas's Knesset list, rather than the Likud's.

In the long run, a reduced Likud Knesset representation could meaningfully increase Labor's bargaining power in possible coalition talks. However, in the immediately paramount prime ministerial race, those floating between the Likud and Shas will vote for Netanyahu. Yet he will get more than just their votes.

Whether the Deri verdict is accompanied by an outburst of fury or by the energy of elation, it will mean one thing – a new fighting spirit in many Sephardi circles.

This phenomenon will not be exclusively limited to Shas.

Optimistic Centrists maintain it could aid Yitzhak Mordechai, because agitated Sephardi voters will translate either their anger or triumph into a vote for a fellow Sephardi.

However, these voters could well regard the Center Party as a collection of the most elitist, aloof and haughty Ashkenazim ever, even if they decorated their list with a Sephardi as No. 1.

Barak is entirely out of the question for this electorate, even if he takes David Levy with him on campaign jaunts through development towns. In 1996 Shimon Peres is assumed to have won about 30,000 Shas votes. This time, Barak could garner as few as 5,000.

Which leaves us with Netanyahu – every bit as Ashkenazi as Barak.

Yet Netanyahu is seen by many Sephardim as much the establishment's victim as they see themselves. He is harassed, hounded, demonized and vilified. He is one of them.

They will vote for him not simply because Rabbi Yosef was nice to him and called him "habibi." It works the other way. Yosef is an astute reader of the public mood. He embraced Netanyahu and distanced himself from Mordechai, because that is what his followers dictate. In an ideal world he might have chosen differently, but– unlike some of the eminent jurists he loves to knock – he knows exactly what world he lives in.

ELECTIONS

notebook

Most former Soviet Union immigrants back PM

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu would trounce Labor Party leader Ehud Barak head to head in voting by immigrants from the former Soviet Union, according to a poll commissioned by Yisrael Ba'aliya. Netanyahu commands a whopping 31 percentage-point lead – 53 percent to 22% – among the immigrants, an increase of 3% from one month ago. "Barak had made some headway in the first month of the year among new immigrants," said Ron Dermer, pollster and strategist for the party. "But over the last month, Netanyahu is regaining his momentum."

In a four-way race with Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai and Herut leader Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, Netanyahu would get 44% of the immigrant vote, Barak 17%, Begin 6% and Mordechai 3%, according to the poll. The telephone poll was conducted in Russian among a random sample of 500 Israelis who have immigrated since 1989. The margin of error is 4.5%. *Elli Wohlgelernter*

PM, Barak ignore Mordechai's attacks

Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai may have hoped to illicit a reaction from Likud leader Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu or Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak when he attacked them Wednesday night, but the leaders of the two major political parties kept their cool yesterday and continued to ignore the Center Party.

"I think that there are three possibilities for Israel: the way of the Left, the Likud way, or no way," said Netanyahu yesterday. "The people want an option, so they will have to chose between Mr. Barak or myself, between the way of the Left or the Likud way."

Likud candidate Dan Naveh echoed these sentiments, asking "Why should we bother responding to the Center Party? With Barak I know we have differences, but with the Center Party, to be honest, I wouldn't even know what to relate to."

Labor candidates, meanwhile, such as Avraham Burg, Dalia Itzik, Matan Vilna'i and Uzi Baram did speak out against Mordechai – who said at the Center Party launch that Barak would not be able to unite the country because he did "not understand the mentality of the Sephardim or the Arabs," – but Barak himself remained mum.

"There is a Center Party, but it has not been able to generate any real message, except that they want to defeat Netanyahu. If this is what they want they should concentrate on Netanyahu," said Uzi Baram. *Danna Harman*

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Dutch PM slams Israel for hiding crash information

By JANET McBRIDE

THE HAGUE (Reuters) – Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and his predecessor Ruud Lubbers criticized Israel yesterday over revelations it put up obstacles to an investigation into the El Al cargo plane crash in Amsterdam.

Forty-three people died when the Boeing 747 slammed into a high-rise apartment block in Amsterdam's mainly immigrant Bijlmer suburb on October 4, 1992.

Kok and Lubbers were giving evidence to a parliamentary committee set up to determine the cargo's contents and whether they were linked to health complaints among local residents subsequent to the crash.

Israel confirmed last year the freight included the chemical DMMP, which can be used in making sarin nerve gas, but said the substance itself was non-toxic and was to be used to test filters that protect against chemical weapons.

The committee, which winds up hearings today, revealed it had succeeded where consecutive governments had failed by locating documents detailing 20 tons of missing freight. The papers, it said, had been in Israel's possession for years.

Lubbers, prime minister at the time, said he was angered and let down by Israel's failure to cooperate. Kok was at a loss to explain the breakdown in basic diplomatic courtesy.

"I find it unsettling that in the context of normal relations between two countries it was impossible to bring this information to the surface," Kok said.

Lubbers was less circumspect.

"I am angry with the Israeli authorities. I am extremely disappointed. I say that as a friend of Israel. It is inconceivable [why] they did not tell us," he said.

Lubbers confirmed long-running speculation that El Al had a privileged status at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and was not subject to the rigorous load checks imposed on other airlines.

"Everyone knew that El Al was something special, but that was not documented anywhere," he said.

Public confidence in the Dutch government has taken a knock as several weeks of hearings have revealed secrecy among civil servants and disarray among government departments.

Kok defended the cabinet from criticism that it had failed in its coordinating role but former ministers admitted mistakes.

"With the benefit of hindsight, one could ask if we did enough considering the number of people with health complaints and the remaining open questions," said former environment minister Hans Alders.

Former transport minister Hanja Maij criticized aviation officials for failing to inform her that the plane's wing ballast contained depleted uranium. Experts say the substance is harmless.



Egypt-Israel Peace Forest

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, flanked by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur (left) and Egyptian Afforestation Minister Mamouh Riad, plants a sapling yesterday to dedicate the Egypt-Israel Peace Forest near Modi'in. The event marked the 20th anniversary of the peace treaty. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Mubarak advisor foresees 'moderation' in Moslem world

By DANNA HARMAN

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's advisor Osama Baz told Labor MK Yossi Beilin in Cairo yesterday he felt the Moslem world was going though a process of moderation.

"This process can be observed in the way the peace process is gaining acceptance," Baz told Beilin, according to statement released by Beilin's office. Baz said he could even see a change in the position of Libya, citing as an example Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's recent statements regarding a Palestinian state.

"Gaddafi said that only Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is in a position to decide whether or not a postponement of the declaration of statehood is in the Palestinian interest, and that nothing Arafat decides will be criticized by the Arab world," said Baz.

Baz also referred to the recent mixed messages coming out of Lebanon, saying he was pleased to hear statements indicating that the Lebanese army would take the security of southern Lebanon upon itself if Israel were to withdraw from the security zone.

"I hope that after the elections, the talks with Syria will be re-started, and that the Wye agreement will be implemented," Baz told Beilin. "Egypt will be there to help reach these ends."

Beilin, in turn, expressed disappointment that on the 20th anniversary of the peace between Israel and Egypt, "no one is celebrating."

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon criticized Beilin, saying that members of the opposition should not be expressing diplomatic positions on Israel's behalf. "Such expressions are very harmful to Israel," Sharon told reporters.

Netanyahu suggests privatizing IAI

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu delivered a two-pronged message during a tour of Israel Aircraft Industries yesterday: Peace is around the corner but Israel's defenses have to be enhanced.

"The problem that concerns us is the external threat of ballistic missiles with non-conventional weapons, atomic weapons," Netanyahu said during his first visit as prime minister to the IAI.

"We are not leaving ourselves without an answer. The answer is found here ...and the long arm of the state of Israel is being manufactured and updated here."

"This factory contributes in defense and also in deterrence, which is a unique contribution to the national strength and the strategic security of Israel," he said. Netanyahu also said that he was optimistic that a peace arrangement would be made with at least one of Israel's neighbors within the next two years.

Netanyahu praised IAI's economic turnaround, but said that he was also ready to help it privatize. "There are two processes which need to be done here. One is to concentrate on defense projects... and two... privatization, which would only be done with the agreement of the workers."

Chaim Katz, the general secretary of the workers' committee, asked Netanyahu not to privatize IAI. "I said that if an invitation was made I would be ready to weigh it," Netanyahu quickly answered. "Everything we do will be done together."

IAI President and CEO Keret said that IAI expected to achieve over $2 billion in sales this year. When he toured the rest of the IAI he was greeted by cheering workers who hailed him as "king of Israel" and clapped wildly when he slipped into a white overall and climbed into the cockpit of a Turkish F-4 Phantom jet currently being upgraded.

"The last time I put on a white overall I got shot," Netanyahu said.

He was part of the commando unit which assaulted a hijacked Sabena airliner in 1972 killing two Arab gunmen while it rescued 97 passengers. Netanyahu was hit in the upper lip by a stray shot.

Ex-Mossad agent Gil found guilty

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Former Mossad agent Yehuda Gil submitted false reports to the agency, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday.

The information fabricated by Gil, 64, reportedly pushed the nation to the brink of war with Syria almost two years ago.

In a split decision, a three-judge panel convicted Gil of passing false information with intent to harm the state, and theft by a public servant.

Gil was a Mossad operative from 1970 to 1989, and worked for the agency part-time after retiring until his arrest in November 1997 on suspicion of feeding false information about Syria to the government intelligence agency.

According to the charges against him, Gil was highly respected in the Mossad, and the false information he gave had a significant influence on state security, insofar as it affected Israeli assessments of Syria's military and political intentions.

According to reports, Gil told his superiors that Syrian President Hafez Assad was planning a lightning military strike to seize the Golan Heights.

Judge Haim Porat differed from Judges Menahem Ilan and Uri Goren, finding that Gil should be convicted of the lesser charges of breach of trust and the submission of false demands by a public servant.

All three agreed to drop a third lesser charge against him: receiving money under false pretenses.



Yehuda Gil (Israel Sun)

Prosecutor Devorah Chen emphasized that Gil had never been charged with espionage and that the central issue was that Gil falsified reports he submitted.

Gil's lawyer, David Liba'i, implied that they would appeal the decision, but would not say so outright.

"The fact is that two judges convicted [Gil] of two charges, one judge acquitted him of two charges and they all acquitted him of the lesser charge," he said. "When there's such a serious dispute between judges, it means the issue will arrive at the Supreme Court." He later said: "It looks like we'll be seeing the Supreme Court on this."

Attorney Yigal Shapira, who once worked with Gil in the Mossad and is a member of his defense team, expressed regret that Porat's opinion was the minority one.

"It's a tragedy, a personal tragedy because no one blames him for espionage, no one blames him for trying to hurt his country. [His motive remains] unexplained," Shapira said.

"It wasn't done with any motive of gaining money or respect," he added.

"It's one of the most extraordinary cases in the history of Israeli intelligence. [Gil] caused serious professional damage to the nation for a long time," military intelligence expert Efraim Lapid said.

"One can't say that he provided information to the enemy," he added, "but the damage he did to the country was as bad as if he had done so. I hope something like this never happens again."

A year and a half after Gil was arrested, the Mossad still is recovering from the "professional shock that a super-professional group that uses double and triple precautions would have [upon discovering] an agent could do this," said Lapid, a former brigadier-general in military intelligence and currently director of Ulpan Akiva.

Though some of his colleagues were suspicious of Gil in the past few years, Lapid said, "no one who knew him suspected anything like this." He blamed the incident on a flaw in Gil's character.

Sentencing is scheduled for the end of the month. Chen said the maximum sentence Gil could receive is 25 years: 15 for passing false information and 10 for theft by a public servant.

News agencies contributed to this report.

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'Orthodox settlers expelled me from reserve service'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Reform Rabbi David Ariel-Joel said he was discharged from reserve duty after the yeshiva students he was guarding at the settlement of Yitzhar complained he was a Reform Jew.

Ariel-Joel, 38, said he was assigned to patrol around a few wooden huts set up on a hilltop about a kilometer away from the main settlement. Two families lived there and several young men who studied in the Od Yosef Hai Yeshiva at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

The three huts were set up after two Yitzhar residents were killed in an August 1998 terrorist attack. The arrangements were for the reservists to rest inside the living room of the students' hut between patrols.

"I'd never seen such a filthy place," Ariel-Joel said. "These were young thugs who had filthy habits. I never saw them pray once. Seven soldiers died for these guys to study at Joseph's Tomb."

He said that on the third day of guarding there, the yeshiva students asked what he did. He told them he worked at the Movement for Progressive Judaism, but they did not know what it was.

"When I told them I was a Reform Jew, they went crazy," he said. "They said that Reform Jews were bad and believed in superstition. They started shouting, 'How could the army send someone like you to guard us?' I didn't show any reaction and that made them even more angry," Ariel-Joel said.

He said the students threatened him and later locked him and the other reservists out of their house when they went on patrol. He added that, when the settlement security officer appeared, the students announced they were no longer prepared for the army to guard them and that the army was "bad."

Ariel-Joel said he has done reserve duty for 17 years, including guarding settlements in the territories, and had never experienced a similar problem.

Ariel-Joel, who is a senior official at the Movement for Progressive Judaism and a trained as a rabbi in Israel, said his battalion commander replaced him at the settlement and then later released him, because there was no other place for him to serve.

"[My commanders] simply thought it was dangerous for me to stay, because I was a Reform Jew," Ariel-Joel said. "And I think they thought I went through a trauma and perhaps feared I'd go to the media."

But the IDF Spokesman said Ariel-Joel was released "in order to avert additional friction at the settlement." The army also noted that Ariel-Joel and his employers had requested before he reported for duty that he be released.

The army noted further that it is responsible for guarding settlements in Judea and Samaria, and the way they are to be guarded is for it alone to decide.

The army also said that a tent was set up to be used by the soldiers to rest in, instead of the settlers' house. Ariel-Joel was the only reservist released from duty.

The spokesman added that Ariel-Joel had been called up again for a second period of duty and was released after he requested to be relieved.

Ariel-Joel confirmed this, saying he asked to be released for "personal reasons."

Margot Dudkevitch adds:

Yehuda Liebman of Yitzhar, an IDF reservist officer serving in Gush Etzion who met Ariel-Joel several times in Yitzhar, said that "to claim he was expelled by us is absolutely ridiculous."

Liebman said Ariel-Joel was invited to the home of one of the families on the settlement to drink coffee, a routine gesture made by community members to the soldiers guarding the settlement. At the home there were several yeshiva students and when Ariel-Joel mentioned he is a Reform rabbi and started discussing the issue, the family asked him to stop.

When he refused, he said, they asked Ariel-Joel to leave their home and return to the guard post.

"It is totally legitimate to ask a guest in your own home not to discuss something and respect their wishes," said Liebman. He also called reports suggesting that residents of Yitzhar refused to allow Russian immigrant soldiers to serve there "lies and a clear attempt to besmirch Yitzhar."

Liebman also denied reports that settlers refused to serve in the IDF, stressing that all Yitzhar residents of army age serve. "I am currently doing a 30-day stint and as an officer I serve more than many others," he said.

'Betrayed' Reform rabbis heckle Sharansky

Accuse him of delegitimizing their position in Israel by his vote on conversion bill



Hebrew Union College president Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman ordains Ada Zavidov as a Reform rabbi yesterday at HUC in Jerusalem. Rabbi Miri Gold was the second woman ordained there yesterday. (Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Heckling delegates greeted Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky at the World Union for Progressive (Reform) Judaism's convention in Jerusalem yesterday. They were angry he had voted with the Orthodox parties on the conversion issue.

Both at the beginning of his speech and at the end, Sharansky was greeted with catcalls from irate rabbis who felt betrayed by him for effectively delegitimizing their position in Israel.

"Why did you vote that we are not rabbis, why did you vote for the conversion law?" yelled Rabbi Robert Samuels of Haifa.

"He's been voting against us all the time," chimed in Rabbi David Liliental, of Amsterdam. "He owes us and he's betrayed us."

"You should have abstained," bellowed a rabbi from France.

Sharansky answered the jeers before and after his speech, seemingly unperturbed by the outbursts.

"The shouts that I just now heard about me not recognizing the legitimacy of Reform Jewry," he said, "really echoed in my ears with the shouts that I heard 10 days ago at a cabinet meeting, from some of our leaders of our religious parties who were really shouting at me, that because of Yisrael Ba'aliya and because of my position they didn't succeed in passing religious legislation, and because of this the Jewish people and Israeli society is split now."

Sharansky explained that he was proud there is no religious legislation today because of the position of Yisrael Ba'aliya: "To build bridges and to find solutions – not through legislation, and not through the Supreme Court," but through cooperation.

He cited as an example the opening this week of the Institute for Jewish Studies, sponsored by the government and the Jewish Agency, where classes are taught by Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform teachers to prospective converts who are mostly from the former Soviet Union and whose Judaism is in question.

"For the first time rabbis from the three streams of Judaism are working together, [and] that is the real way to build understanding and to build Jewish Israeli society. And I am very proud of my role."

Sharansky said later that while he believes in fair representation for all streams of Judaism in areas such as religious councils – "as long as the religious councils exist, every representative of any party who was appointed should have the right to be represented there, whether he is Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or secular."

He also believes that on the issue of conversion in Israel there should be only one standard to keep the Jewish people from splitting apart.

Sharansky's positions were dismissed by Samuels of Haifa, who said afterwards that he felt Sharansky owed something to the group.

"It was a group of Reform rabbis, among others, but mostly Reform rabbis who sacrificed themselves to get him out of the gulag.

"He voted for it because of political considerations. He feels that he compromised in this last vote [on religious councils], and that's why the Orthodox are so against him. He should have done it on the conversion law.

"He made a moral choice, and it was the wrong choice. He would not have done that in the former Soviet Union – he made choices [there] that sent him to prison, and now as minister he has a responsibility to stand up for what he believes is right.

"If he doesn't believe that this is right, then we have a problem."

In a less controversial event at the convention yesterday, two women were ordained as Reform rabbis.

One, Ada Zavidov, 39, is the granddaughter of the late Revisionist leader, Abba Ahimeir; the other, Miri Gold, 49, is the secretary of Kibbutz Gezer.

Zavidov said that her grandfather was non-observant, but had a great knowledge of Judaism. He came, she said, from an enlightened traditional family.

"I would describe him as a religious rationalist," Zavidov said.

Norway sets up fund for Jews robbed by Nazis

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Calling it a "moral settlement," Norway yesterday became the first nation occupied by the Nazis during World War II to set up a fund to compensate Jews for the confiscation of their property during the Nazi-Quisling era.

In another development, the European Insurers Association threatened a trade war with the US over possible American sanctions against companies for Nazi-era insurance policies.

In Oslo, parliament voted unanimously for a fund of 450 million crowns ($58 million).

Two hundred million crowns is for payments to Jewish Nazi victims and their heirs, and 250 million crowns for Jewish organizations, primarily for the development of Jewish culture in Norway.

Some 60 million crowns will be available for Jewish institutions or projects abroad.

"We can never put right the wrongs committed against the Jewish people, but the government believes that a historic and moral settlement must be made," Health Minister Dagfinn Hoeybraaten told parliament.

The fund had been promised by the government last May after it dramatically spurned the recommendations of a government-appointed commission and instead affirmed the claims of its Jewish community for the losses under the Quisling regime, which collaborated with the Nazis.

Austria yesterday transferred about $8 million, its share in the international fund set up in London in 1997 to compensate Holocaust survivors for gold looted by the Nazis. The transfer was made by the Austrian National Bank to an account with the Federal Reserve Bank in the US where the money is collected.

Meanwhile, in Brussels this week, the Comite Europeen des Assurances (CEA), which represents national insurance associations from 29 European countries, raised the prospect of a trade war with the US because of threats by California, Florida, New Jersey and New York to force insurers to pay into Holocaust compensation funds or face sanctions.

CEA Secretary General Francis Loheac said the association's opposition was specifically to the actions of the state insurance commissioners, and that the CEA was not expressing a view about the class-action lawsuits against insurers that have been filed in US federal courts.

He said the US government's argument that it could not intervene in state legislation for constitutional reasons was unacceptable.

Nazi victims are suing European insurers for their alleged failure to honor Holocaust-era policies. In addition to the lawsuits, an international commission of insurers, government officials, industry regulators and Jewish organizations, chaired by Lawrence Eagleburger, is attempting to resolve the claims.

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Part 1: Sat., March 20, 7:30 p.m. /Part 2: Sun., March 21, 7:30 p.m.

As if I'd forget, mum.

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So whenever you're thinking of your mum, think what a call could do.

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The moon, stupid

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Can honest journalism survive friendship, can friendship survive honest journalism?

It has a chance among journalists, it seems, but is distinctly shaky in the unstable chemistry between journalists and sources.

This conclusion may be drawn from one of the more bizarre media stories to emerge from the trials and tribulations of President Bill Clinton.

This is a rift between senior White House aide and former left-wing journalist Sidney Blumenthal and his former pal and still-crusading British journalist, Christopher Hitchens. The row set the hothouse of Washington's babbling classes ablaze for weeks.

Just at the end of the Senate impeachment trial, Hitchens swore an affidavit accusing Blumenthal, a close friend, of lying under oath to save the president.

In his affidavit, Hitchens said Blumenthal had told him over lunch last year that Monica Lewinsky was a "stalker" threatening the president. Justice officials now say Blumenthal may have committed perjury in his Senate deposition, in which he specifically denied ever hearing of the stalker theory that allegedly was meant to discredit Lewinsky.

Source material

Hitchens is a controversial writer but he is, by any standards, an excellent journalist. Hitchens is one of the interesting mavericks of upper-class quality British journalism. He long ago moved to live in the dangerous minefields of Washington DC, where he was embraced as a delightful enfant terrible. He is a both a rigorous chronicler of facts and a prolific Trotskyite son-of-a-Marxist in his opinions. He currently writes for *Vanity Fair* and *The Nation*.

Hostage to Hitchens

Hitchens was formerly a well-connected Cyprus hand – we socialized there often in the 1980s. Like most of his colleagues, I have always liked and admired Christopher's charm, intellect, and lively writing.

He wrote one of the finest-ever studies of Cyprus, *Hostage to History*, which has been praised to the heavens by reviewers from *The Times Literary Supplement* downwards.

But he also wrote *The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practice*, in which he infuriated her adoring public by accusing Mother of being less than saintly in her egoism and love of publicity, and in the incompetent handling of the vast donations that poured into the Sisters of Charity.

It was only one example of Hitchens fearlessly swimming against streams of conventional wisdom. Unlike most left-wing journalists and American liberals, he has been an avowed and card-carrying Clinton-hater since 1992.

His attitude appeared to be that Clinton was simply bad for the liberal Left, because the president just isn't liberal Left. Those who support Clinton have remained indulgent of Hitchens: "Oh, it's only old Chris doing a Mother Teresa job on Bill." The indulgence has crashed in flames with the Blumenthal affair. In Washington's self-obsessed media world, it was a hatchet-job too far, even for Hitchens. He is accused not only of stabbing a friend in the back, but of breaking the journalist's unbreakable holy rule – a source must be protected at any cost.

No free lunch

Hitchens says the conversation was by definition on the record, and included Hitchens's wife, Carol Blue, who is also a writer. Two other journalists have since sworn affidavits supporting Hitchens's account of Blumenthal's open lunchtime blabbing.

Hitchens manfully affirmed that despite his affidavit, he will not cooperate in any Republican prosecution of his friend Blumenthal, and will go to jail for contempt rather than give evidence.

But Washington is a vicious place. Its society's rules are more complex than those of Hollywood celebrity land. "I have since been called, in print, a terminal alcoholic, a promiscuous homosexual, a Judas, a Holocaust-denier, a snitch, and a deranged maniac suffering from psychic collapse," Hitchens reported in a recent column.

"It's bizarre to become the hostage of a piece of information," he wrote. As Washington's in-crowd hastily rearranged its guest lists (for dinners as well as lunches), Hitchens mused: "It nauseates me that it's come to who will or will not have me to dinner." Hitchens's non-Washington media colleagues are standing by him in print and in stormy Internet debates.

It is worth noting that Hitchens did not "decide" to report Blumenthal. Like any normal gossipy journalists, he and his wife simply repeated the Blumenthal lunch story to friends. Then, after Blumenthal's Senate testimony, lo and behold, prosecutors called Hitchens and asked him for an affidavit. He had no choice.

Blumenthal's problems were caused by Blumenthal's mouth, not Hitchens's pen. That doesn't save Hitchens from being "bad taste of the month" in Washington's mealy mouths.

However, as he wrote in the opening sentence of a wry *London Evening Standard* piece: "When the finger points at the moon, the idiot looks at the finger."

Teachers ask Sheetrit to conduct wage negotiations personally

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Histadrut Teachers Union Secretary-General Avraham Ben-Shabbat yesterday asked Finance Minister Meir Sheetrit to get personally involved in negotiations over a new wage agreement.

In a letter to Sheetrit, issued as union teachers sat out the first two hours of classes to press their demands, Ben-Shabbat wrote that Treasury representatives in the talks "are trying every which way to deliberately delay these talks, for reasons known only to them.

"I feel the need to appeal to you and warn you before we make unpleasant decisions. We have run out of patience! I implore you to personally join the negotiations with the teachers. I am sure that you, as a man who came up through the ranks, as you put it, are certainly aware more than others of the plight of Israeli educators. I know that we will find you to be open-minded, patient, understanding and tolerant of our demands."

Yesterday's two-hour delay did not affect twelfth grades, where pupils are preparing for matriculation exams, or special classes.

Treasury and union officials are due to meet Sunday for talks, but union officials said they would not attend unless they get a response to letters sent to the prime minister, the education minister and Sheetrit asking for their intervention.

Responding to remarks by Sheetrit that the Treasury would not break any wage agreements despite the proximity of the elections, union officials pointed out that their agreement ended three months ago.

Union leaders yesterday met with representatives of the Dor Shalem Doresh Shalom movement, who they said had taken upon themselves the job of pressing the issue of education in the coming elections. The union has asked all candidates for prime minister to "reach clear conclusions and make clear statements, as they have on matters of security and economics."

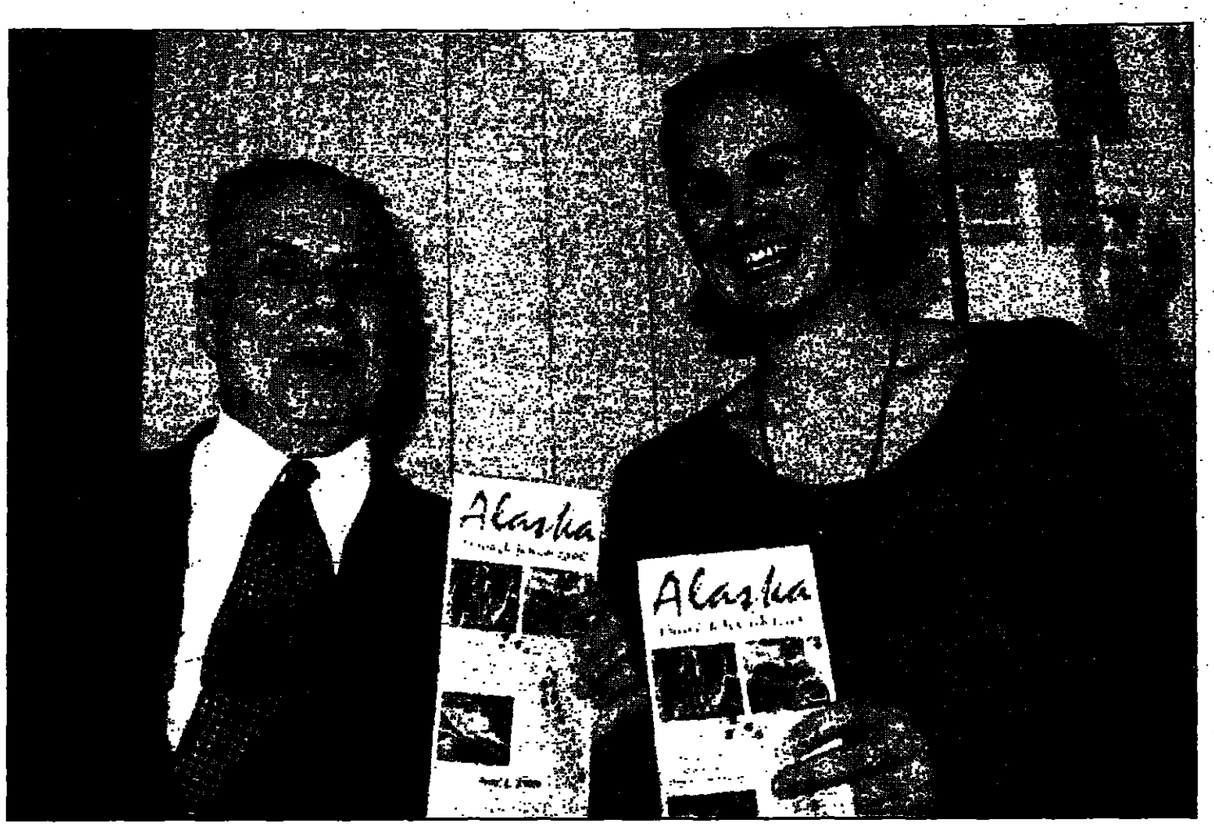
Parents Association Chairman Shai Lachman criticized both sides in the dispute. "The seven days of classes that were missed at the beginning of the school year because of the teachers' strike were enough," Lachman said. "Such disputes should not be waged on the pupils' backs."

Meanwhile, officials in the Agricultural Education Authority yesterday declared a work dispute in their ongoing battle with the Treasury over plans to begin implementation of a government decision to close the authority and have schools previously administered by it become part of the various school districts around the country.

Bracha Maziel, chairwoman of the Secondary School Teachers Association's professional department, said the move is being taken because the schools of many needy children will suffer as a result and because many teachers' jobs will be affected.

Teachers at the schools will not launch any sanctions until the 15-day cooling off period ends, she explained, but principals may decide to close them on their own, in which case the teachers would report for work but not teach.

Itim contributed to this report.



Margaret Lachower, winner of 'The Jerusalem Post''s Alaska Adventure contest, receives two cruise tickets yesterday from Arthur Goldberg, joint managing director of Greentours Travel Agency, in Tel Aviv. (Mati Milstein/Israel Sun)

'Post' contest winner thrilled to cruise Alaska

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

That scream you may have heard Wednesday wasn't anything to worry about – just Margaret Lachower of Ramat Hasharon reacting to news she had won *The Jerusalem Post's* Alaska Adventure contest.

"I had total happiness, I was so excited," the Austrian-born Lachower, who works for the Austrian Embassy, said yesterday.

Lachower has two sons – Michael, who will celebrate his bar mitzva just a few days after Lachower returns from her trip, and Binyamin, 11, although they won't be going to Alaska with mom.

"They hugged me and kissed me when they found out," she said.

The contest-winner said she is taking her best friend, Dina Turkof, on the trip, as a way of paying her back for her support during her divorce.

"I know that it's [Alaska] very sparsely populated and has outstanding nature and wildlife," the excited Lachower said. "I'll definitely prepare myself well for this trip."

Lachower said she had a feeling she was going to win while dutifully clipping coupons out of the paper. In fact, she thought she had won a few weeks ago when she got a call from the *Post*.

"My heart jumped, because the man said: 'You filled in this form, and I'm from *The Jerusalem Post*.' And then I was so disappointed, because he only wanted to sell me a subscription. This morning when they called, I knew it was for real."

IDF opens Hebron road to Palestinians

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The IDF opened the road linking Hebron's Jewish community and Tel Rumeida to Palestinian traffic yesterday, a move the community had hoped to prevent.

Learning of the IDF's intentions earlier in the week, the Jewish community refused to accept four new caravans slated to replace four old ones in Tel Rumeida to protest the decision.

Residents charged that, since it is the only road linking the communities, opening it to Palestinian traffic will hamper security.

Spokesman David Wilder blamed the government, accusing it of bending to US pressure and selling out to Arab blackmail.

Wilder said it is no secret that the Arabs warned security officials there would be severe clashes if the caravans were moved to Tel Rumeida. However, said Wilder, the Arabs agreed to keep the peace if the road were opened to Palestinian traffic.

The road was closed eight months ago after a woman celebrating her son's bar mitzva was shot in the leg by terrorists as she was walking down the road.

Now that the road has been opened, Wilder said, residents will allow the four caravans to be set up in Tel Rumeida to provide slightly larger accommodation for the families living there. They will also allow archeological excavations to be carried out there.

However, he added, residents will continue pressuring government officials to close the road to Palestinian traffic.

Meanwhile, a settlement-monitoring report published by Peace Now claims that a new encampment containing four mobile homes was established six kilometers east of Itamar two weeks ago.

Peace Now director Mossy Raz said that, since plans to demolish another encampment set up on a hill near Itamar were thwarted several days ago after the government yielded to settlers' pressure, the movement decided to publish details of the new one.

The latest actions by settlers, said Raz, is in addition to some 15 new settlements or satellite neighborhoods that have been set up in settlements since the signing of the Wye agreement.

However, he stressed this is the first time a new encampment was set up far from the main community.

Civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said he would investigate the claims, but added that the majority of encampments set up by settlers over the past months were established within the planning scheme of the communities.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved brother, uncle, and great-uncle

AARON ROTHMAN

The family

The Board of Directors and Staff of REUTH
mourn the passing of a dear friend

HERMANN MERKIN ז"ל

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife
Ulla Merkin
Chairman of the American Friends of REUTH
and all **the family**

REUTH Medical Center,
Beit Bracha and Beit Achva
Beit Jenny Breuer, Beit Shalom,
Beit Barth

In deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved

MAX (Meir) MEYEROWITZ

The funeral will take place at the Netanya cemetery, Shikun Havatikim, today, Friday, March 12, at 12 noon.

Deeply mourned by his loving wife, Yetta, his children, grandchildren, great-granddaughter, sisters and special friends.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to
Ulla Merkin and the family
on the loss of

HERMANN MERKIN ז"ל

MaTaN, the Sadie Rennert Women's Institute for Torah Studies

Bar-Ilan University

deeply mourns the passing of our dear friend

HERMAN MERKIN ז"ל
of the USA

devoted member of the university's
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and member of
the university's Council of Founders

The university extends deepest condolences
to his wife **Ulla**, and the entire family.

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

RUTH WEIL ע"ה

Zurich, Paris, New York, Paris, Jerusalem

widow of **Jacques Weil** ע"ה
daughter of **Recha** and **Max Kahn** ע"ה, Zurich, New York

Our family friendship goes back a lifetime: Ruth was married to our cousin Jacques Weil.
Our relationship spanned the ocean and the war years,
was cemented in New York and renewed in Yerushalayim.

Ruth was special: intellectually and politically; her all-embracing *chesed* and compassion were exemplary; her steadfast course – deeply entwined religious values – made her *The Matriarch par excellence* of her family and honorary grandmother to many others.

Until recent days, conversations in Hebrew, English, French, German,
and SchweitzerDutsch were *de rigeur*.

We join **Henry, Miriam Salomon, Daniel,** and **Evelyn Schimmel** in mourning a unique individual and a close friend, last survivor of the "old guard" of the French Weils.

The Bendheim Family

The Taubman Family, formerly of Tulsa, OK
sadly mourns the passing of

ROBERT M. TAUBMAN
lately of San Mateo, California

on February 26 (12 Adar).

He leaves his
wife, Marilyn
daughters, Hilary, Andrea, Rebecca, Claudia and Sarah
brothers, Charles and Micha; sister, Rosalie

May his memory be for a blessing

A memorial service in memory of
MOSES (Moe) J. GRUNDWERG ז"ל
will be held at the Yeshurun Synagogue, King George Street, corner of Shmuel Hanagid Street, Jerusalem
on Tuesday, March 16, 1999 at 12:30 p.m.

Family and Friends

We extend our heartfelt condolences to
Henry and Lili Weil
and the family
on the loss of your
mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

RUTH WEIL ז"ל

MaTaN and Yad Rachel

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

The Rector
Faculty of Jewish Studies
Department of Literature of the Jewish People

extend deepest condolences to the
Newman family
on the passing of the head of their family
in the U.S.A.

ISRAEL NEWMAN

founder of the annual prestigious
Newman Prize in Hebrew Literature

May his dear soul rest in peace

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Yeltsin balks at NATO jamboree

By MARTIN NESIRKY

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russian President Boris Yeltsin remains implacably opposed to NATO enlargement and is unlikely to attend the defense alliance's 50th anniversary summit next month, the Kremlin said yesterday.

Russian and Western diplomatic sources do not rule out representation at a lower level, for example by Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. But they say Moscow is likely to wait until the last minute before saying who, if anyone, will go.

NATO invited Yeltsin last December to attend the April 24-25 Washington jamboree, at which three former Soviet satellites – Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic – will join the club.

"I don't think President Yeltsin will take part," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin told a briefing. "As for his opinion (on NATO enlargement), I think there is nothing new in that. It was and is negative...he thinks it is a negative step." Russia has reluctantly learned to live with NATO's plans.

But Russian officials are unenthusiastic about the prospect of Moscow's leaders playing the embarrassed gooseberry at a summit celebrating NATO's first half century and welcoming new members which were long in the Kremlin's sphere of influence.

"In December...the secretary-general of NATO handed over to Igor Ivanov an invitation from all NATO countries for the Russian president to participate in the Washington summit," Alexis Chahtahtinsky, a Frenchman who is NATO's civilian information officer in Moscow, told Reuters.

"We wanted to leave a certain amount of flexibility to our Russian partners," he said. "So we invited Russia to participate...at the highest political level or at a high level." Diplomatic sources say this phrase was meant to cover Yeltsin or Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov. Neither Russian leader seems likely to attend, the sources say, partly because of Yeltsin's poor health and partly for political reasons.

They say it seems more likely Ivanov will represent Russia, although he did not sound too keen at a briefing on Wednesday.

"This is not a great event but a sad event," he said of NATO's eastward enlargement. "Our position remains as it always has been that this is a movement in the wrong direction." NATO-Russian relations, perennially awkward because of the alliance's expansion plans, have been through a rough patch over the Kosovo crisis. But there are signs the atmosphere is not entirely gloomy.

The Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday Moscow had made progress in talks with NATO on modifying the Cold War-era Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and hoped to have goals agreed with the Western alliance by the end of March.

Spokesman Vladimir Rakhmanin did not give details of either side's position in talks but said Russia "welcomed positive changes in the positions of the members of the (NATO) alliance".

Milosevic nixes foreign troop presence in Kosovo

LONDON (Reuters) – The West's strategy for bringing peace to Kosovo is down but not out after Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's refusal to accept US Balkan troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke's offer of international military intervention in the region, officials said yesterday.

"There's still a long way to go. No one expected Milosevic to roll over at this point and say 'yes' to NATO troops on his soil," an official in the six-nation Contact Group in charge of Balkan diplomacy said yesterday.

Officials said the international community would intensify pressure on Belgrade before Monday's second round of Kosovo peace talks in Paris and beyond, while working to ensure that leaders of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority sign the autonomy plan unconditionally.

After eight hours of talks with Holbrooke on Wednesday, Milosevic issued a statement saying "attempts to condition a political agreement on our country's acceptance of foreign troops... are unacceptable."

US diplomats said Holbrooke's mission had been to warn Milosevic of the consequences he faced, not to negotiate.

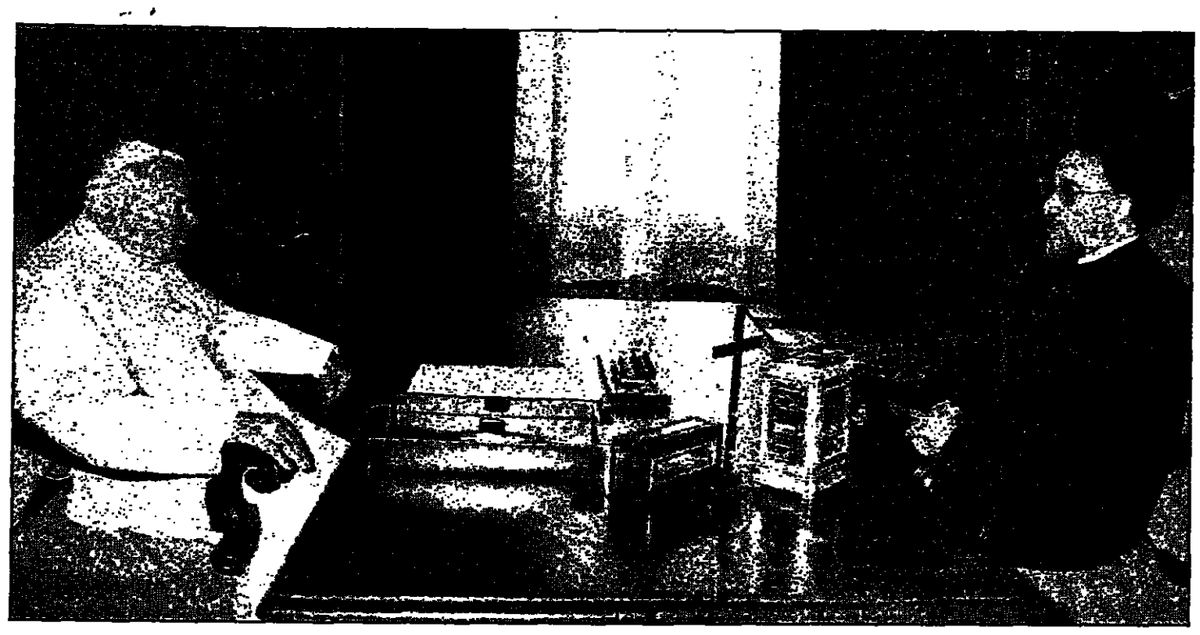
A senior NATO official said that the Serbian strongman would require "a lot of 'psychodrama' to climb down," and that might include the beginning of Western bombing to show his people that his hand was being forced.

NATO countries too may need some psychodrama to re-create the unified political will to carry out air strikes against Serbia which existed last October but has since been blunted by the ambiguity of the situation on the ground.

The justification invoked at that time in the absence of a UN Security Council mandate – averting an imminent humanitarian disaster – is no longer so clear.

Secretary-General Javier Solana still has the authority to order air strikes but has made clear he would consult allied governments again before taking action.

"It would take several days of crisis, with the Serbs being obdurate at the table and brutal on the ground, to wind allied public opinion up into bombing mode," a NATO diplomat said.



Pope John Paul II and Iran's President Mohammad Khatami discuss Catholic-Moslem dialogue during their historic meeting at the Vatican yesterday. (AP)

Pope calls Khatami meeting 'promising'

By PHILIP PULLELLA

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – Pope John Paul yesterday held what he called "important and promising" talks with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami in his highest-level meeting with a post-revolutionary leader from the Islamic state.

Khatami, wrapping up the first state visit to the West by an Iranian president since 1979, said he was hopeful for what he called "the victory of monotheism, ethics and morality."

Around 50 Iranian opposition activists gathered on the fringes of St. Peter's Square during the 25-minute meeting, holding banners and shouting anti-Khatami slogans.

St Peter's Square was deserted apart from a huge police presence ensuring tight security for the visit by the Iranian delegation.

In the talks, Khatami told the pope that "the hope is for the victory of monotheism, of ethics, of morals together with peace and reconciliation. May God protect you."

Khatami, a moderate Shi'ite cleric, asked the pope to pray for him and promised that he would pray for the pope's "success and health... This was a truly beautiful day...

"I am returning to my home full of hope for the future," Khatami told the pope.

Later Khatami and the Vatican's Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano discussed Iran's human rights record, the Middle East and the situation of 13,000 Catholics in Iran, the Vatican said.

Khatami promoted his ideas for a "dialogue of civilizations" and closer contact between Islam and Christianity. The pope, too, has often appealed for greater collaboration between the world's great faiths.

The previous highest-level meeting between the Vatican and Iran took place in November 1970 when Pope Paul VI met the Shah at a stopover at Teheran Airport.

In his comments in Italy, Khatami pledged that Iran would work towards opposing terrorism, as well as the spread of nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction.

Germans ease citizenship law

MAINZ (Reuters) – The German government struck a deal yesterday that will help it get controversial citizenship law reforms through parliament, Interior Minister Otto Schily said.

Schily said the deal with the liberal Free Democratic Party would allow millions of foreign residents to apply for German passports.

Polls have shown that 60 percent of Germans oppose widespread dual citizenship, which is currently only available in exceptional cases.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder needs to win the support of the FDP, a partner of his Social Democrats in the state government of Rhineland-Palatinate, to secure a majority for it in the Bundesrat.

His national coalition with the Green Party lost its Bundesrat majority last month when the Christian Democratic Union won a state election in Hessen after campaigning hard against making it easier to become German.

Schily said he dropped his plan that immigrants resident in Germany for over 30 years be automatically given dual citizenship, something FDP politicians had opposed.

WORLD

in brief

Students demand referendum in Indonesia's Aceh

JAKARTA (Reuters) – About 1,000 students protested in Indonesia's rebellious province of Aceh yesterday demanding a referendum, the official Antara news agency reported.

The demonstration took place in the industrial town of Lhokseumawe, 1,600 km northwest of Jakarta, outside a government building, Antara said, but did not mention any violent incidents. It was unclear from the report what type of referendum they were after.

Staunchly Moslem Aceh, which has centuries-old tradition of separatist struggle, was the scene of a recent violent separatist uprising crushed by the military.

Ukraine urges West to honor Chernobyl promises

KIEV (Reuters) – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma urged the West yesterday to fulfill promises to help finance the closure of the troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant by 2000.

"Ukraine has fulfilled its obligations, but the West must also fulfill theirs," Kuchma told journalists. "We are not changing our position that the Chernobyl nuclear station must be closed, but the question is when," he said.

Ukraine promised the Group of Seven leading industrial countries to shut down Chernobyl by 2000 in exchange for aid to finish building two replacement reactors in western Ukraine, but it says the promised funds have yet to appear. Experts say the completion would cost about $1.2 billion.

China urges UN to prevent arms race in space

GENEVA (Reuters) – China, hoping to head off a proposed US missile defense scheme, proposed in the United Nations Conference on Disarmament yesterday that the UN negotiate a ban on weapons in outer space.

The hypothetical US Theater Missile Defense system, backed by Japan, would be land-based, but would probably use space sensors to provide early warning of enemy or accidental launches.

Diplomats said the US delegation was the only conference member opposed to setting up a committee to negotiate on outer space. The forum takes decisions by consensus, meaning Washington can block the proposal.

Britain admits army rifle may malfunction

LONDON (Reuters) – Britain's Ministry of Defense yesterday admitted its main infantry rifle might not work in hot, dry conditions and said it was studying a number of modifications needed to improve the weapon.

The fault in the SA80 rifle is the latest in a string of embarrassing complaints associated with the weapon, which was widely used during the 1991 Gulf War, amid complaints that it constantly jammed.

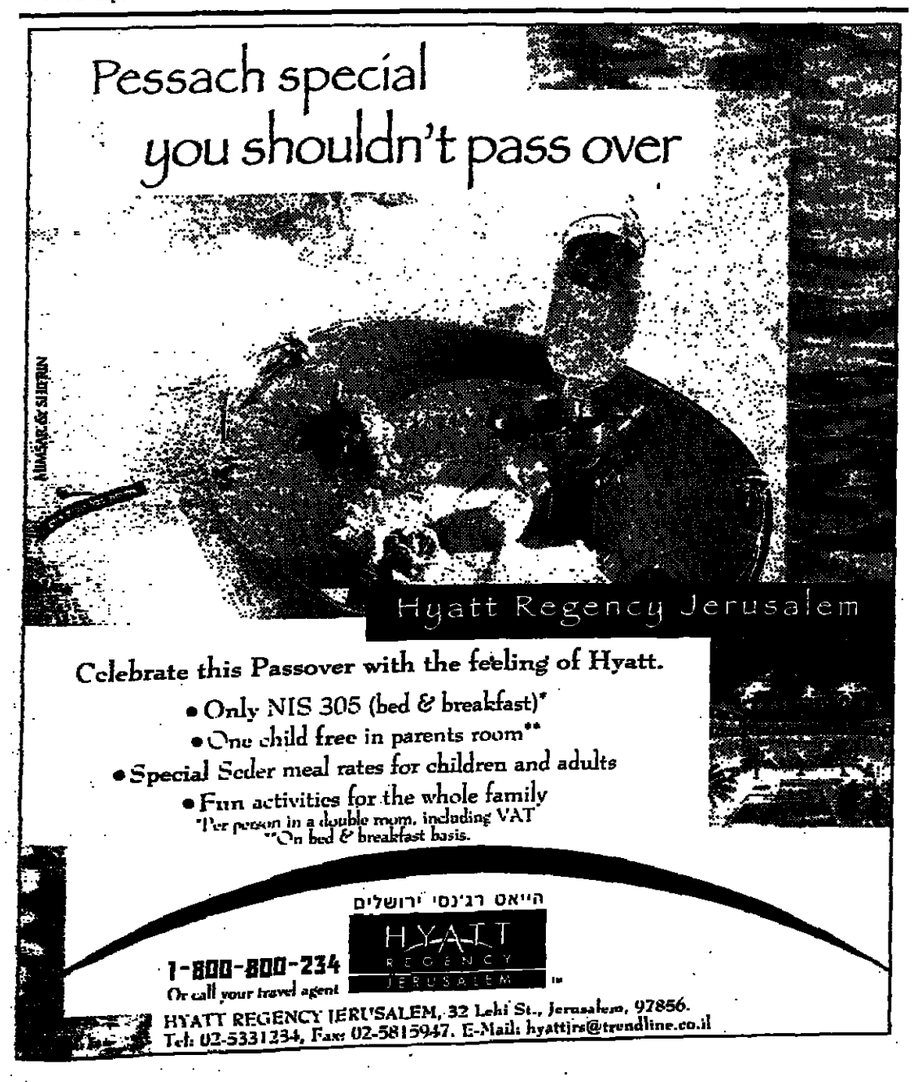
British soldiers have consistently grumbled that the SA80 suffers from a number of problems, including the positioning of the gun clip and the design of the rifle butt.

Sudan's warring parties to stop using land mines

NAIROBI (Reuters) – Sudan's government and rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army have agreed to stop using land mines across southern regions hit hardest by their brutal 15-year-old civil war, a senior UN diplomat said yesterday.

Between 500,000 and two million land mines are believed to have been planted across the country, a large majority of those in the south.

UN officials said Khartoum refused to accept a ban on land mines in eastern Sudan along the border with Eritrea, and that the international community would need closely to monitor compliance of the ban in the south if it is to stick.



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An informational seminar to explain policy, criteria and the application process will take place on Wednesday, March 17, Adar 29, from 11:00-13:00, in Weizmann Hall, JAFI Main Building, 48 King George Street, Jerusalem

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM — YAD CHAIM HERZOG

Announce

The Award of The Chaim Herzog Prize for Outstanding Contribution to the State of Israel to

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Zvi Zur

The Chaim Herzog Prize for outstanding contribution to the State of Israel is a joint undertaking of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Yad Chaim Herzog. The prize will be awarded every two years on the anniversary marking the passing away of President Chaim Herzog, who was Israel's sixth president, to someone who has made a significant contribution to the State of Israel in the following areas: Israel's defense: law, justice and ethics; foreign relations; the common identity of the nation and coexistence; communications; and Israel-diaspora relations.

The first recipient of the prize is Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Zvi (Chera) Zur for his contributions to Israel's defense and his multi-faceted activity towards the development and strengthening of the Israel Defense Forces, the military industries and the economy of Israel over a period of decades. The prize will be awarded at the President's Residence in Jerusalem on the second anniversary of the passing of Chaim Herzog, March 24, 1999.

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Foreign intervention

An Israeli election campaign is a sticky thing – even foreign governments that may not wish to become involved somehow get sucked in to its vortex.

A private, if clumsy, reminder of the long-standing European policy toward Jerusalem has given the government an opportunity to leap to the capital's defense. In the meantime, the United States has also opened itself to accusations of engaging in the politics of the snub, a practice that often backfires on the snubber.

The tempest began with a European note verbale – diplomatese for formal communication of mid-level significance – in response to a similar note from our Foreign Ministry reminding the diplomatic corps that official visits to Orient House are a violation of the Oslo and Wye accords. The European note, according to a report in *Ha'aretz*, took the opportunity to "reaffirm our stated position regarding the specific status of Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* ...." The gratuitous reiteration of these two Latin words (meaning a "separate body") that have lain dormant on the international books for years is technically not a change in policy, but still had a somewhat shocking effect. The phrase comes from the United Nations' 1947 Partition Plan for Mandatory Palestine, under which Jerusalem was to become an international city to be administered by the UN.

After the War of Independence, a 1949 General Assembly resolution reiterated its support for internationalizing Jerusalem, but this time over the opposition of Israel, Jordan (which then held half the city), and interestingly enough, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and 10 other nations. This attempt to salvage the Jerusalem portion of the Partition Plan, despite the obliteration of the proposed borders in the ensuing war, has languished as a dead letter to this day.

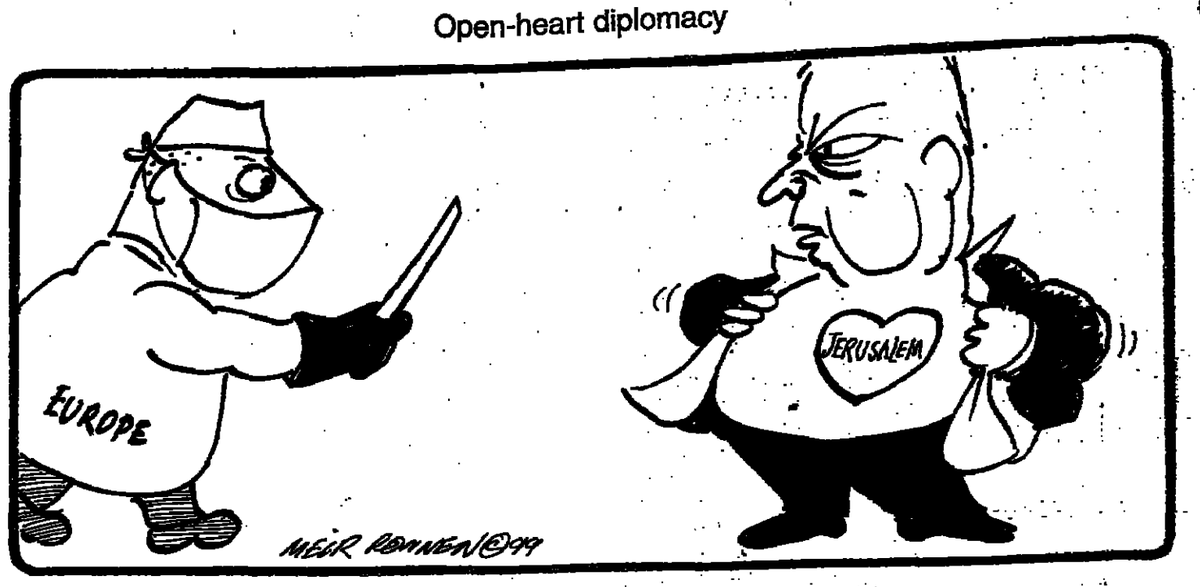
Though the European note was not public and reportedly was leaked by the Israeli side, it is a mystery why some nameless, possibly low level, European bureaucrats would want to resurrect the concept of internationalizing Jerusalem. Before Oslo, dredging up such a non-starter proposal might have been understandable for lack of another internationally acceptable formula. Since Oslo, however, even the government agrees that Jerusalem is a matter for final-status negotiations. The Israel-Jordan peace treaty also gave Jordan a role in determining Jerusalem's future. Given the new reality, it is hard to see why any outside nation would not, as most nations have until now, simply deferred to Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan to solve the problem for themselves.

The Europeans cannot have it both ways. On the one hand, they claim to support the peace process, which should entail encouraging the parties to negotiate without attempting to dictate the result. On the other hand, they cannot seem to resist hinting at their preferences for specific outcomes on controversial issues, such as supporting the concept of a Palestinian state, and now weighing in on Jerusalem. By provocatively recalling a proposal supported by no one, Europe actually helps to radicalize the issue on both sides: Israel is forced to more aggressively assert its claims, while Palestinian positions tend to harden in response to raised expectations.

Attempts to influence the Israeli elections are another, indirect, and likely equally counterproductive effort to influence outcomes in the peace process. Before the 1996 elections, the Clinton administration embraced the Peres government in every possible way in a barely disguised effort to support the Labor Party in that campaign. US officials privately acknowledge that this was a mistake, so this time around there seems to be a conscious effort to avoid overt support for the opposition. Yet despite supposedly having learned its lesson, a series of recent American attempts to avoid high-level meetings with Israeli officials gives the impression that the politics of the snub is at work. The United States argues it is a coincidence that in January Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was too busy to meet with Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon, that Vice President Al Gore reportedly was not interested in meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Davos economic conference, that Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk will not be stopping in Israel on a regional swing, and that Defense Secretary William Cohen added meetings with Netanyahu – and Ehud Barak and Yitzhak Mordechai – at the last minute before his current visit.

The principle of not interfering in Israeli elections is a fine one, but it should not be taken so far as to institute a subtle boycott of the Israeli government. Such non-intervention is a form of intervention, because it allows the opposition to use frosty relations with the US as a campaign issue. Besides, like it or not, snubbing the government of a democracy is snubbing the country as a whole. Whether regarding democracy or the peace process, pulling strings to affect outcomes is as likely to hurt as to help.

Open-heart diplomacy



Sharansky is the Center

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Like the former generals who are so prevalent in Israeli politics, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky entered the political arena after another career. While Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai, Labor candidate Matan Vilna'i, and Center Party candidate Amnon Lipkin-Shahak made their way up the military hierarchy, Sharansky was a Prisoner of Zion. He was sent to the gulag in Siberia for aiding and abetting the causes of Zionism and human rights in the Soviet Union.

Like thousands or millions of other Soviet Jews, Sharansky's views were formed by the events of 1967, when the Arabs prepared to reverse the results of the 1948 war, and to "push the Israelis into the sea." Joining the underground movement that worked to gain freedom for the three million "Jews of Silence," he was dedicated to the goal of mass aliya to Israel.

For these actions, and for refusing to remain silent, he was repeatedly interrogated by the KGB and spent many years in the prison camps Siberia.

In this crucible, his passion for Zionism and sharp insight into the dynamics of hatred and hostility not only endured but was strengthened. In terms of assessing the basis for leadership, the determination that Sharansky brought to these ideals and his commitment to the Jewish people make him at least as qualified as the generals.

In the 1996 elections, Sharansky led Yisrael Ba'aliya to results that were far better than had been expected. As a result, he gained a cabinet seat as industry and trade minister and a chair in the security cabinet, involved in determining strategy for negotiations with the Palestinians and other foreign policy issues.

Before Ariel Sharon was appointed foreign minister, Sharansky was responsible for Israel's links to Russia, and he campaigned for the release of Azzam Azzam, the Israeli Druse citizen who is in an Egyptian jail.

FROM the beginning of the Netanyahu government, Sharansky played a central role in the efforts to repair the deficiencies of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians. When Sharansky demanded that the Palestinians begin to honor the spirit of the peace process, and end their hate speech and denial of Israeli legitimacy, he carried considerable credibility.

Sharansky's background led him to see that the key issue is not the quantity of land to turn over or to hold, but rather, the quality of the peace

At the Wye summit last fall, Sharansky was unwavering, insisting that the Palestinians rewrite their charter, school books, and other official documents to remove the language that denies the legitimacy of Israel and Zionism.

Sharansky's position on this issue reflects his extraordinary personal experience. As a result of his own history in the former Soviet Union, he knows that the language and signals sent by the Palestinian leadership, from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat down, still fundamentally reject the legitimacy of Zionism and Israel as a Jewish state.

In debates with American officials, including President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and the US State Department team which is centrally involved in the negotiations, Sharansky displayed the evidence that the Palestinian goal of eliminating the Jewish state has not changed.

With increasing conviction, he argued (and still argues) that incitement and hatred, and not questions over land and other technical issues, are the main obstacles to peace.

This position resonates with the views of a large number of ordinary Israelis, and along with his sharp sense of humor and his own modesty, has contributed to Sharansky's political support across a wide section of society. Sharansky's background experiences led him to see what many other Israeli leaders and eager peace-makers have missed – that the key issue in the negotiations with the Palestinians is not the quantity of land to turn over or to hold, but rather, the quality of the peace.

Sharansky understands that until the Palestinian leadership, from Arafat to the teachers and journalists, mount a sustained and intense campaign to convince the Palestinian masses that the Jewish state is a permanent and legitimate part of the Middle East, there will be no real peace for Israel.

This practical and commonsense approach (what a centrist party should but does not represent), is also apparent in Sharansky's approach to secular-religious issues. He has been active in efforts to define a middle and constructive role for religious law and the Chief Rabbinate, while maintaining the unity of the Jewish people.

Here as well, he does not fit the standard mold based on simple and contrasting ideological divisions that has become so dangerous for Israel.

However, for all his accomplishments, Sharansky's policies and leadership role have not escaped criticism.

Factionalism and personality disputes divided his party, and some of his former supporters argued that he was not working hard enough to channel funds to party members. Secular Israelis were angry when Sharansky did not use the large number of mixed marriages among Russian Jews to attack the official Rabbinate, and the Left expected a more conciliatory position with respect to the Palestinians, as a counter to hard-liners in the government.

Yet this criticism merely confirms Sharansky's position in the center. It is still too early to discuss an even wider political role, and he currently lacks a wide party base to run for prime minister. However, it is clear that over the coming years, his importance and impact as a Zionist and Israeli leader will increase.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIE A YELLOW RIBBON

Sir, – Last week, four precious lives were lost in Lebanon. That is a national tragedy. The same week seven equally precious lives were lost on the roads of Israel. That is a national shame! Compare the outcry, the concern of everyone, from the prime minister on down, for the first group, and the complete indifference regarding the road fatalities, which simply and quickly became mere statistics.

The women of Hadassah-Israel are dedicating their current national Mered (acronym for Enough of Murder on the Roads) campaign to the memory of the 630 who died on Israel's roads in 1998. This campaign is intent on raising consciousness about the consequences of careless driving, with an emphasis on the importance of courtesy on the road. Being distributed in cities throughout the country are Hadassah-Israel's "Ten Commandments of Courteous Driving," bumper stickers, and yellow ribbons, which drivers are asked to attach to their cars as a token of identification with this safety campaign and as a reminder to other drivers to drive carefully.

We are pleased that the Organization of Driving Teachers, as well as taxi companies, are among those participating in this effort. If you care about our tragic road toll, tie a yellow ribbon onto the antenna of your car. We hope to see a sea of yellow ribbons on our roads and a marked decrease in driving fatalities. For further information, please call Hadassah-Israel (02) 623-1411.

EVELYN WOLMAN
Road Safety Chair

Jerusalem.

THE TRUE CENTER

Sir, – I am writing with reference to Sarah Honig's analysis "The Meretz of the Right" (March 10).

We found the article interesting, but I would like to specifically refer to Ms. Honig's comment about Shinui's free enterprise philosophy, compared to Meretz's Marxist doctrines.

It would not be correct to suggest that Shinui had ever become enamored of the leftist outlook of the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam. Shinui joined with those other parties in order to strengthen the peace process, and for no other purpose. We were in coalition with the other two parties, we were most definitely not "merged" into Meretz. In fact, we separated from Meretz in December 1996, because we refused to become "merged" into a "united" and strongly leftist Meretz.

Shinui is, and always has been, an independent Liberal party promoting and working towards its own political agenda. We are opposed to Meretz's position on many issues, particularly as far as economic issues are concerned. We are certainly not part of Meretz, as Ms. Honig's article had suggested. We are running in this election as the independent center party which we are. We would urge your readers to beware of any imitation center parties currently in the news.

RONI FORMAN
National Director, Shinui
English Section

Tel Aviv.

ELOQUENT ANALYSIS

Sir, – There's so much to say regarding the fateful "macro" issues of our existence, that I have chosen to relate to a single "micro": namely, the criticisms voiced recently in these columns of your movie reviewer, Adina Hoffman.

I speak as an intelligent, sophisticated reader who appreciates fine writing, not as a movie-goer, since I rarely go to the movies. I enjoy her fresh, colorful literary style, her incisive analytical ability, and her knowledge of the cinema. Unlike some of your readers, I don't see her as an arbiter of morality or a guru who must launder her comments to protect her flock of innocents. She does what every good reviewer does, whether it be in the field of books, theater, dance, or the cinema: offers her own evaluation of the work in question, and leaves it to the intelligent reader to take it from there.

JANE BERMAN

Haifa.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 12, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that a newly received gift enabled the Hebrew University to construct a new wing of the Einstein Institute of Physics and Mathematics.

25 years ago: On March 12, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Knesset stood in silence to mark the memory of the dead and missing of the Yom Kippur War after a booklet containing the names of 2,522 victims had been tabled in the House.

Egypt launched an effort towards the easing of the Arab oil ban against US fearing that the continued embargo might lead Washington to slow down its Middle Eastern political initiatives.

Alexander Zvielli

Politics and women go together

NAOMI CHAZAN

International Women's Day was marked this year in almost predictable ways: candidates for the various parties declared their commitment to women's issues, feminist groups noted achievements while reiterating chronic problems, and the media gave women a day of grace at the microphone and on screen.

But, for a change, the usually placid Knesset ceremony turned into raucous debate on the propriety of introducing politics into a discussion of women's affairs.

This is an astounding, if not alarming, controversy at the close of the twentieth century, especially since it took place in the most *political of places – Israel's parliament* – during an election year. Surely an attempt to separate the status of women from political life has only one meaning: the perpetuation of ongoing inequalities in the personal, social, economic, cultural and human position of women in the country.

Gender issues are political issues, and political decisions have always had implications for gender relations. To dismiss this inherent connection is to accept a worldview that consistently demotes women – and their concerns – to a secondary position.

The women who argued in the Knesset this past Monday are political creatures. So how could they, of all people, decry the politicization of the meeting? Some of those present (Esther Herzog of the Women's Party, for one) sought to extract political parties from the debate on the grounds that parties in Israel have systematically disempowered women.

To a large extent she is right. Female representation in the Knesset is appalling. Only 54 women have served in the Knesset in the past 50 years, *never have more than 12 women* been elected to the national legislature at one time.

The 1999 elections will be different. For the first time, it is reasonable to assume, women will break the 10% barrier that has plagued them since the creation of the state. In fact, there will be, in all likelihood, between 14 and 16 women in the 15th Knesset.

Although this is not good enough at all, it is a result of tremendous efforts by women in various parties and by cross-party coalitions to increase the number of reserved slots for women, and to encourage party members to select women on the lists.

The sometimes bitter lessons of the internal party elections have been internalized. Without a substantial quota – such as the 40% established in Meretz which yielded four women in the top 10 – no substantial improvement can be anticipated.

Most women won't vote for a women's party because they cannot reduce their concerns to a single issue: for them religion is a feminist issue, social justice is a feminist issue, peace is a feminist issue

The problem of female representation in elected office is real. It is doubtful, however, whether a women's party is the answer.

First, such a formation seeks to dissociate women's politics from party politics, thereby risking the creation of a female ghetto that allows men to reign supreme in the main parties. Second, the track record of women's lists has been dismal (they did not pass the threshold in 1977, 1992, or 1996), and the polls predict a similar outcome in 1999.

Third, unfortunately, women's lists tend to diminish the struggles and achievements of women elected in political parties. The eight parliamentarians in the present Knesset account for 40% of all legislation passed in the past three years. And finally, a women's rights platform, however alluring, is self-defeating.

Most women won't vote for a women's party because they cannot reduce their concerns to a single issue: for them religion is a feminist issue, social justice is a feminist issue, peace is a feminist issue.

In this context, the demand by other women at the Knesset this week (most notably Pnina Rosenblum) to stop the political bickering and join forces appears out of place.

TO be sure, this call contains a compelling plea for solidarity. Breast cancer and osteoporosis do not differentiate between Orthodox and secular women, or between doves and hawks. Violence against women is, tragically, a daily occurrence among Arabs and Jews, sabras and new immigrants, old and young, university graduates and the barely literate.

Women's sports teams receive a fraction of the support granted their (less impressive) male counterparts. And despite exceptional gains in education, engineering faculties and boards of corporations are still dominated by males of all *ideological hues*.

Women from divergent political parties have successfully cooperated in recent years to reduce the discrimination that affects us all. It would, however, be superficial if not foolhardy to assume that coming together on seemingly consensual issues will resolve the root causes of gender inequity in Israel.

The monopoly of the rabbinate on matters of personal status is one of the main sources of discrimination against women in Israel. The relationship between religion and state is at the center of political debate in the country. How this issue is resolved has broad implications for women.

The absence of peace has, for 50 years, glorified the military and by extension relegated women to a second-class position in the public arena. No subject divides political parties more than Israel's relations with its neighbors.

Women are constantly discriminated against in the workplace. The income disparity between men and women in the same jobs is close to 40 percent, in the public sector it stands at 25 percent. Although there are more female than male university graduates, women are virtually absent in key positions.

They constitute 70 percent of those living below the poverty line.

To tackle this gross inequality one needs a clear social vision: Labor and the Likud, Meretz and the National Religious Party, *Hadash and Shas* have vastly different approaches to socio-economic matters.

Promoting women's rights requires addressing these and other controversial issues. No real strides can be made unless these questions are confronted. And, frankly, women from different backgrounds will and should disagree on how these problems should be resolved, because they have differing assessments of the impact of proposed policies on themselves and their surroundings.

Women's rights are thus an integral part of human rights. Unless women, in varying ways, promote basic human rights, they will never advance themselves, no matter how hard they work on the problems they share.

It is impossible today to divorce the campaign for gender equality from the struggle to mold a just society in Israel. Women in politics serve democracy because they compete within their parties and disagree among themselves in order to achieve their goals. Democracy, in turn, is the only form of government that can promote and protect equality for men and women alike.

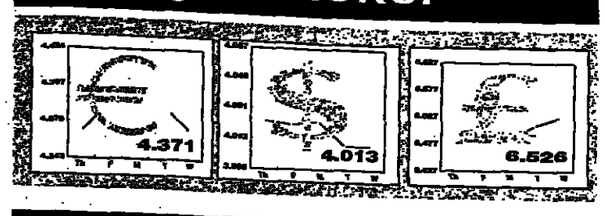
In this week of international women's day, the last of this millenium, the time has come to say clearly that politics and women's rights go together, and that women must gain enough power to make it happen. When the rights of women are assured, this country will become a better place for all its citizens.



هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأعلى

Today's shekel



On the agenda

By Jonathan Lipow

'Dollarizatziya' now

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's tight monetary policy has drawn a lot of flak over the years, but for the wrong reasons.

Frenkel's critics argue that the Bank of Israel's "war on inflation" has resulted in high unemployment and slow economic growth.

This argument leans on the old Keynesian notion that since wages are set nominally, inflation can be used to erode the real value of nominal wages, making labor less expensive. Cheaper labor means that employers hire more workers, thus lowering unemployment.

Yet Keynes was unfortunately mistaken – there is no meaningful trade-off between inflation and unemployment – and all that Frenkel's critics have achieved is to draw attention away from the Bank of Israel's real failings.

In 1970, Richard Nixon declared that "we are all Keynesians now." That same year Nobel Laureate Robert Lucas published a seminal paper that identified serious flaws in the Keynesian paradigm.

Lucas reasoned that what employers and workers really cared about was real wages. Since inflation lowers the value of wages, it is the expected inflation, combined with the desired real wage, which determines the correct nominal wage. If workers expect inflationary policies, they demand higher wages, neutralizing the effectiveness of inflationary policies in lowering unemployment.

Although the evidence is not definitive, Lucas's analysis appears to be far more accurate than that of the Keynesians.

Since I accept Lucas's conclusions, I also fully support Frenkel's emphasis on low inflation. Still, there are two problems with his strategy of controlling inflation through interest rate adjustments while letting the shekel fluctuate as freely as possible.

The first is that the Israeli economy is highly exposed to foreign trade. As a result, currency fluctuations immediately translate into price fluctuations, forcing the Bank of Israel to juggle interest rates.

Since Frenkel took over the central bank and began shifting Israel towards a floating currency regime, he has reset interest rates 70 times. Inflation damages productivity because it generates confusion and uncertainty. Unfortunately, uncertainty regarding exchange rates and interest rates can be just as damaging, and although Frenkel has been successful at lowering inflation, interest rates and the value of the shekel have gyrated. The effect on productivity is obvious.

During Michael Bruno's reign as the central bank's governor, monetary policy was moving in the direction of fixed exchange rates, and labor productivity rose by an average of 3.3% per year. During Frenkel's reign, labor productivity has declined annually by 0.3%.

The second problem with the Bank's policy is that it chronically requires high interest rates.

High rates do not engender unemployment, but do redistribute wealth. Money borrowers are victimized while lenders benefit from the high rates. That means that the central bank's policy takes wealth from the government – which is the biggest national debtor – as well as from the poor, and passes it on to local wealthy people and foreign investors. This hardly promotes a Zionist-social economic agenda.

There is an alternative to Frenkel's approach.

Israel should consider linking the shekel to the US dollar. This concept, known here as *dollarizatziya*, was first proposed by my colleague Yakir Plessner in 1980.

At the time, Plessner was derided as a practitioner of "voodoo" economics. Since then, however, many countries have adopted his approach with considerable success. Leading economists, including Avi Braverman, Robert Barro, Paul Krugman, and Larry Summers now endorse variants of Plessner's fixed-currency approach.

If Israel shifted to a fixed-currency regime, one thing that can be said with certainty is that exchange rate fluctuations would be a thing of the past.

Theoretically, Israel may still experience price instability and interest rate fluctuations. In practice, however, the countries managing monetary policy through fixed exchange rates have enjoyed lower inflation and more stable interest rates than their neighbors. Furthermore, average real interest rates have tended to be lower in those countries. The evidence suggests that the Bank of Israel's shift towards floating exchange rates has been a costly mistake.

The writer, a development economist, is a Hebrew University lecturer.

In brief

February trade deficit $952m.

Israel's foreign trade last month ended in a $952 million deficit, after exports totaled $1.62 billion while imports soared to $2.57b., the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. The deficit was influenced, among other factors, by the importation of five civilian airplanes and an accelerated release of goods from bonded warehouses after the customs workers' strike ended. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Yahalom adopts Langental panel report

Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom yesterday said he is adopting the Langental Committee's recommendations that the air freight industry, where El Al has more than a 60-percent share of the market, be demonopolized. Yahalom said he will insist that the addition of new carriers not involve an introduction of Shabbat flights, besides those which already do take place in accordance with the status-quo agreement on Shabbat observance in public services. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Fiat, Talgo, Adtranz in tilting-train tender

Multinational corporations Fiat, Talgo, and Adtranz are competing to supply Israel Railways with coaches for tilting trains. Earlier this week it was announced that the French engineering giant Alstom had won a tender to supply double-decker coaches.

Israel Railways' preliminary intention is to buy four sets of these coaches, to be supplied within 18 months, at a cost of $30m. If the authority is interested. Alstom has the option to supply 26 additional double-decker coaches in the next few years, at a total cost of $180m.

Railways Director-General Amos Uzani said tilting trains will cut travel time on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line to 50 minutes, at a relatively low-cost upgrade of the existing line. *Sybil Ehrlich*

UK Lords: Kuwait Airlines entitled to $150m.

The UK's House of Lords has ruled that Kuwait Airlines (KA) is entitled to recover a further $150 million plus interest from war risks insurers for losses incurred as a result of the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, solicitors for KA said in a statement yesterday.

The ruling by the House of Lords – the UK's highest court of appeal – relates to the value of spares, equipment, and engines seized by Iraqi forces following the invasion. It overturns earlier decisions in favor of the underwriters in the Commercial Court and the Court of Appeal, KA's solicitors Elborne Mitchell said. *Reuters*

New Apax Partners $100m. fund to invest in Israeli companies

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Apax Partners has raised $50 million for its new venture capital fund, the Apax Israel II Fund, in its first round of financing, the company announced yesterday.

Apax Partners, one of the largest international venture capital groups, manages $3.5 billion of institutional funds and has investments in some 150 companies worldwide.

Together with Bank Leumi's subsidiary Leumi & Co. Investment Bankers, the group currently manages the $40m. Apax Leumi Fund, which was established in 1994 and has been invested in 15 domestic companies.

The fund intends to raise another $50m. within several months, turning it into one of the largest venture capital funds active here, alongside Star Ventures and DS Polaris II, which have each raised $125m., and the Gemini Israel II Fund with $110m.

Investors in the fund include the Bell Atlantic pension fund and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology pension fund, which has already invested in Apax Leumi and Gemini. Bank Leumi and other institutions have also invested in the fund.

Allan Barkat, the fund's managing director, said that Apax will invest in a diversified portfolio while focusing on service, hi-tech and industrial sectors. The fund plans to invest in both start-ups and established companies in the areas of communications, information technology and health care. In addition, the 10-year fund intends to invest in management buy-outs, privatization, and Israel-affiliated firms.

The establishment of the fund is part of a trend in which new funds raise larger sums. Currently, a dozen local funds raised more than $60m., allowing them to invest more in each round of financing.

The need for larger investment is more acute now as many hi-tech companies require more and more financing.

Findings of the Money Tree Survey, published by the PriceWaterhouseCoopers accountancy firm, show that while the average investment in an American start-up company by a US fund is $4.7m., during the third quarter of 1998 the average investment in Israeli firms totaled only $2.2m.

Fund managers have complained in the past that the fact that most of the funds had less than $30m. for investments prevented them from investing larger sums in promising companies, which forced them to organize a syndication of funds in in order to make larger sums available.

Oren Ze'ev, assistant director at Apax, said that the fund is not keen on participating in large syndications and would try to act as the lead or sole investor in most investments. He added that the fund is poised to invest $3m. to $8m. in some 20 companies.

Ze'ev said that one of the aims of the fund is to provide local companies with enough capital to allow them to go public.

BMC chief pledges to expand New Dimension

By NICKY BLACKBURN

BMC Software, which purchased New Dimension Software for $650 million earlier this week, plans to expand its new Israeli acquisition and exploit its intellectual capital to extend BMC's reach, Max Watson, BMC's president, CEO, and chairman announced yesterday.

Watson, who was in Israel for a brief trip, said that New Dimension was a key acquisition for Houston-based BMC, a leading provider of application service assurance solutions, and marked the first time that his company has opened a significant software development location outside the US.

"We are tapping into a great pool of intellectual capital, which we believe will take both companies to new heights," he said. "Our objective is to take the critical mass in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and have it grow and prosper.

"BMC will see greater growth than we could achieve without this acquisition. Our purchase here in Israel rounds out our global operations."

New Dimension, an industry leader in enterprise management, saw revenues of $93m. in 1998. Based in Tel Aviv, the company's products are licensed to over 2,350 customers in more than 40 countries.

The agreement to sell the NASDAQ-traded company to BMC, the fifth largest independent software company in the US, was signed on Monday.

BMC was founded 19 years ago and has been growing at a rapid pace. Last year's revenues exceeded $1 billion and after tax profits reached $300m. BMC sells software products to some of the largest enterprises in the world.

Watson said BMC plans to introduce New Dimension's products to a wider audience around the world. In particular, he said he expects to see New Dimension's European sales grow substantially to some 40% of its total revenues – a figure that reflects BMC's own European sales figure of 43%.

Helping this growth along will be Boole & Baggage, New Dimension's exclusive European distributor, which is expected to merge with BMC on March 30.

Watson said BMC's intention is to help New Dimension grow. He cites the example of BGS Software, a company that BMS acquired last year. The company then employed 250 people. Today it employs 350.

He said BMS, which spend about $400m.-$450m. a year on R&D, is now looking for talented software developers to join New Dimension, which will be de-listed.



From left: BMC CEO Max Watson, New Dimension managing director Dan Barnea, BMC CFO Bill Austin, and New Dimension CFO Yitzhak Zion join hands yesterday after their Tel Aviv press conference. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Elron's Galil defends Zisser deal

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Elron Electronic Industries CEO Uzia Galil said he has been greatly hurt by accusations in the press following the sale of Elron holding Elbit Imaging to property tycoon Motti Zisser, calling the whole row a "misunderstanding."

Government Chief Scientist Orna Berry said the deal violates the terms by which Elbit Imaging had received state aid. Yesterday she reiterated, in a conversation with *Globes*, the demand that the company invest $200 million in the local hi-tech industry.

Galil, who is widely respected as one of the founding fathers of Israel's hi-tech industry, told *The Jerusalem Post* "the whole thing is a lot of wrong noise for a lot of misunderstanding."

Elron had been in the medical imaging business for many years, he added, during which it developed some great technologies, ultimately reaching $300m. in revenues.

This, however, proved insufficient under the constraints of the new global marketplace, he said. "Our only relative advantage here is technology and we were spending lots of money on R&D and the company was barely profitable. As a result the market penalized us very strongly. The market value of the company couldn't go up."

In areas like medical diagnostics, if one is not one of the major companies it's very difficult to continue, he explained. "We tried to sell the company to one of these major companies, but didn't succeed."

Instead, Elron decided to sell off Elscint's CT operations to Picker International, and followed that by selling Medical Resonance Imaging to General Electric.

"As a result of that customers are much happier," according to Galil. "They got introduced to all the latest technology and they got the muscle of General Electric. It was a great thing to do, as a result we now have GE and Picker operating in Israel. It's not that we sold the technology and it was taken out of Israel. We sold the operations and they are still here in this country. I think it's a wonderful thing to have GE and Picker here."

In addition, it was very difficult for Elscint to continue running the MRI and CT operations, said Galil, who now believes GE and Picker will do a "much better job."

Once Elron sold off these parts, all that was left of Elbit Medical Imaging was money. Ultimately, Elron decided to sell its holding, because it did not fit in with the company's new approach, which is to focus on information technology and communication companies.

"I believe that, though Motti Zisser's main activities are not in hi-tech, he's going to do quite well for shareholders. It's a common process – there's nothing unusual about this."

Still, Galil preferred not to directly challenge the chief scientist. "We have a lot of respect for her," he said.

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Dow passes 9,900 • TASE at 9-month high

SHARES

WALL STREET

Blue-chip stocks soared yesterday as a surge in oil stocks and fresh evidence about the resilient US economy carried the Dow above 9,800 and 9,900 for the first time.

At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 124.60 – or by 1.3 percent – to 9,897.44, after pulling back from a high of 9,935.46, earlier in the session.

Broader stock measures also were up, with the Standard and Poor's 500 index also hitting a new high and just missed its first close ever above 1,300.

Oil stocks were sharply higher, following reports that leading exporting nations are close to agreement on production cuts in a bid to shore up prices. Oil prices have been rising steadily for over a week, recovering from 12-year lows and pushing oil stocks higher.

The biggest Dow gainer was Coca-Cola, which rose more than 3 after an analyst from Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette Securities raised his investment opinion of the stock.

Investor interest in the magical 10,000 mark for the Dow also seemed to be feeding on itself.

"In the short term, at the margins, traders feel its inevitable that we will go to 10,000 and they are playing that dynamic to push the Dow higher," said Richard Cripps, chief market strategist for Legg Mason of Baltimore.

For the first time in years, the broad stock indicators were driven higher even without a surge in technology stocks.

Helping the rally was new retail sales data showing the US economy is growing without any inflationary threats. Since there are no signs that the economy is overheating, investors believe that the Federal Reserve Board will have little reason to boost interest rates in coming months.

The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 11.29 to 1,298.13, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 6.24 at 2,412.24 Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 7-to-5 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,747 up and 1,257 down and 563 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 902.62 million shares, vs. 832.59 million in the previous session.

The NYSE composite index rose 5.19 to 611.67 , and the American Stock Exchange composite index rose 6.51 to 721.65 The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 0.04 to 401.08.

TEL AVIV

THE Maof index rose 1.94 percent to 347.86, its highest level since June 10, after losing 0.33% yesterday.

Gains were led by the banking industry and Bezeq.

Bank Leumi rose 2.36% to NIS 6.95, in an apparent response to US fund manager Capital Group of Companies' purchase of a 5% stake in the bank (see story Page 1).

Israel Discount Bank rose 4.53% to NIS 4.15, while First International Bank of Israel rose 2.61% to 23.60.

Bezeq, which received a "strong buy" recommendation from Warburg Dillon Read Inc., rose 1.94% to 14.40.

Bezeq also announced it is cutting long-distance rates to 40 countries, including Egypt, Canada, Japan and Brazil.

Oil land gas exploration company Isramco Negev rose 4% to NIS 2.6 after Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi El Banbi was reported in the state-owned *El Ahram* paper to have said that foreign companies extracting gas in Egypt, such as Eni SpA and BP Amoco Plc. are free to sell part of their production to Israel.

EUROPE

The UK's FTSE 100 index soared to a record closing high yesterday, driven by powerful gains in heavyweight oil stocks BP Amoco and Shell, which tracked a surge in crude prices.

By the close, the benchmark index had risen 94.2 points or 1.5% to 6,335.7, having earlier reached a fresh intra-day peak of 6,360.3.

BP and Shell contributed around 60 points to the FTSE 100's gain, as oil prices were bolstered by attempts from key producers to agree on output cuts to boost prices. BP and Shell ended up 9.3 and 8.3% respectively, with total trading volume of the stocks reaching about 130 million shares.

Further support came from a robust Wall Street where the Dow was up 105 points and further into record territory by the London close.

ASIA

Profit-taking struck Tokyo and Hong Kong shares yesterday, while Australia's market ended at a record high and other Asian stocks finished mixed.

Thai shares ended up over 3%, Korea added 2% while Malaysian and Philippine shares lost around a percent each.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei average managed a meager 0.14% gain to close at 15,502.14 after surging more than 2% over the past two days.

Traders in Tokyo said last-minute sales helped cement profits ahead of the settlement of stock futures on Friday, but hopes of economic recovery were keeping sentiment positive.

Many investors had been waiting for a chance to take profits following a 9% rise in the key index over the past four sessions. They wanted to secure profits before March futures were settled on Friday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index lost 0.80% to finish at 10,662.81 as profit-taking put an end to four days of gains.

TRADING FLOORS

Maof 347.86 ▲ 1.94%

Dow Jones 9897.44 ▲ 1.3%

FTSE 6335.7 ▲ 1.51%

Nikkei 15502.14 ▼ 0.14%

The territory's blue chip index had risen 8.44% over the four previous days.

Thailand's SET index closed up 3.58% at 345.21 on market expectations that a key bankruptcy bill will be passed soon despite differences between the government and some senators.

South Korea's composite index closed up 2.24% at 582.00 points as an expected sell-off ahead of the expiration of March index futures yesterday failed to materialize.

The Philippine 33-share main index slumped 1.56% to end at 1,950.52. Malaysian shares ended 0.92% down at 523.27, as a local election pushed investors to the sidelines.

CURRENCIES

The dollar rose against the euro on expectations slowing growth in Europe will prompt the European Central Bank to lower interest rates later this year.

Earlier yesterday in Brussels, ECB council member Guy Quaden refused to rule out a rate cut.

"The euro shouldn't be so strong given that European economies are weaker than the US economy," said Matt Lifson, managing director of foreign exchange at PNC Bank Corp. "By the end of the second quarter, the euro will have dropped to $1.05."

The dollar's rise drove the single currency down to $1.0843 from $1.0943 yesterday in New York. The dollar rose to 120.05 yen from 119.79 on speculation Japan opposes the yen's 2.5% gain in the past week because it hinders economic recovery.

Lifson said he expects the ECB to lower rates eventually," reducing the allure of euro-denominated deposits and bonds.

Quaden, the Belgian central bank governor, suggested the ECB has room to cut rates. "I'm not saying that we can rule out that European interest rates could still fall a bit," he told *L'Echo* newspaper.

The ECB's benchmark refinancing rate now is at 3.0%.

Euro interest-rate futures contracts that settle in September stand at 2.91%, far enough below current three- month money-market rates of 3.07% to suggest many traders and investors expect the ECB to trim borrowing costs by the end of the third quarter.

COMMODITIES

METALS

Gold rose almost 1% to its highest price in nearly three months after comments by a former UK cabinet minister helped ease concern European central banks will sell their holdings in the near future.

The 11 nations that adopted the euro are unlikely to sell gold "while the European Central Bank is establishing itself," former UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Lord Lawson told a mining conference in Australia.

"It looks like European central banks are less likely to sell any gold this year," said Fredric Panizzutti, head of research at MKS Finance SA, a Swiss gold refiner and trader.

"The bearish sentiment is evaporating and that's enough to keep gold rising for the moment."

Gold for immediate delivery rose as much as $2.10, or 0.7%, to $294.75 an ounce, its highest price in London interbank trading since December 17. In New York, April gold futures gained as much as $2.30 to $296.50 an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Concern that European central banks want to unload their gold holdings, collectively the world's largest, have been weighing on prices since 1997, when prices dropped 22% following sales announcements by Australia, Argentina and the Netherlands.

ENERGY

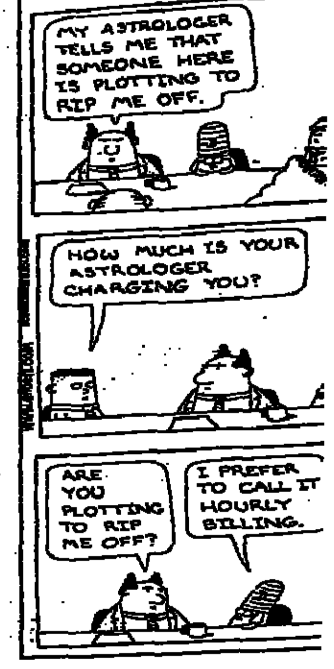
Crude oil was little changed close to a four-month high as oil ministers meet in Amsterdam to negotiate reductions in world supply.

Though traders expect output cuts of around 1 million barrels a day, some producers are lobbying for 2 million, or 2.7% of world output. Prices fell to a 12-year low at the end of 1998 after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries failed agree on more cuts in a November meeting.

"If they could cut 1.2 million (barrels) to 1.5 million that would be very significant for prices," said Tom Bentz, senior vice president-energy at Cresvale International LLC in New York. If reductions are "something more like 500,000, that would disappoint."

April crude oil was recently 2 cents lower $14.67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, close to the highest intra- day prices since November 2. Prices have climbed 20% this month.

DILBERT
By Scott Adam



In London, April Brent c
oil was 7 cents higher at $1
a barrel on the Internati
Petroleum Exchange.

This month, the Organiz
of Petroleum Expor
Countries achieved only 79
its previous pledge to cut
million barrels out of the ma

Saudi Arabia, the world's
producer, is leading effor
reach an agreement to cut
duction and plans to meet t
with Venezuela, Iran, Al
and non-OPEC members M
and Norway. Saudi officials
terday held talks with Ku
Oman and Qatar and seek
agreement to cut produ
before the Organizatior
Petroleum Exporting Cou
meets March 23.

Oil exporters twice in the
year have cut output th
failed to meet their quotas,
tributing to oil prices th
December fell to $10.35 a b
the lowest price since 19
total of 17 oil producing n
have pledged cuts of 3.23
lion barrels a day.

(Age

Are Asian stocks finally about to turn the corner?

MARKETWATCH
By DAVID STAMP

LONDON, March 11 (Reuters) – A faint dawn is gathering over Asian stock markets but it may yet prove to be a false one.

In Reuters' quarterly poll of global bourses, analysts forecast that the region's leading markets would rise by between six and 25 percent by the year-end. But many predictions are hedged with ifs and buts and, apart from Seoul and Singapore, the averages are lower than in the last such survey in December.

Most of the leading Asian markets seem to have hit the bottom in the second half of last year apart from South Korea, which got there earlier and Taiwan which plunged last month.

Recovery has been patchy but economists are at last talking, albeit tentatively, about life after the recession which has gripped most of the region.

Tokyo typifies the mood with analysts forecasting that the market will get back on its feet in 1999, supported by hopes that the Bank of Japan's easier monetary policy will eventually help to pull the country out of recession. They also said an increasing number of Japanese companies were expected to carry out drastic downsizing to survive the decade-long economic downturn.

The poll was taken on March 3-4, before Sony Corp. announced a restructuring costing 17,000 jobs over the next four years.

The median average of nine forecasts put the benchmark Nikkei 225 average at 15,722 at the end of December this year, 10.8% higher than its close of 14,183.45 on March 4.

However, the "Sony effect" has sent the market soaring since then and the Nikkei closed at 15,480 on Wednesday.

Garry Evans, a strategist at HSBC Securities, expected the Nikkei to continue rising towards 17,000 by the end of this year. He cited the economy, which is starting to recover gradually, and a change in the Bank of Japan's credit stance.

"The key (to pushing up the average), though, will be corporate restructuring," Evans said.

But the 15,722 forecast for the end of this year compared with a median 16,875 in the poll taken last December. "The world economy is being propped up by strength in the US economy right now," said Mamoru Shimode at Deutsche Securities. "If that slows down, it will put pressure on the Japanese stock market." In Hong Kong, analysts also saw a recovery in 1999, spurred by falling local interest rates, better corporate earnings, and a favourable – if less than exciting – China growth scenario.

According to the median forecast of 12 analysts, the Hang Seng Index would end 1999 at 11,500 – again below the 12,650 median in the last poll. The index closed on March 4 at 9,912.76 although, like Tokyo, it has jumped this week.

Singapore analysts were among the most pessimistic in the last survey but the mood has brightened. "It is a little too early to be popping the corks, but we expect 1999 to be a vintage year in which to own stocks in Singapore," said Jason Donville, research director at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Singapore firms' earnings should rebound but this is barring violent elections in neighboring Indonesia, severe weakness in the yen, a devaluation of China's yuan and US rate hikes.

The median forecast put the Straits Times Index, now hovering around 1,450 points, at 1,700 by the end of 1999.

South Korea, which nearly collapsed in late 1997, was most optimistic. The median forecast for the Korea Composite Stock Price Index was 670 points for the end of 1999, compared with only 600 in the last survey. The latest forecast was 25% up on the KOSPI's close of 532.29 on March 4.

"Investors should start accumulating quality stocks while the market is weak," said Kim Hunsoo, research head at Merrill Lynch. "Once the market does begin to recover, it could well be that it will become difficult to acquire stocks in quantity as everyone will end up chasing the same names." Taiwan is one of the few countries tc
avoided recession but it too h
altogether escaped the
malaise. GDP grew 4.83% in
enviable in the rest of Asia bu
year low for Taiwan.

The poll yielded a median
tation that the TAIEX wou
7,500 at the end of 1999, up
18% from the March 4 benc
but down from 8,500 i
December poll.

Australia has also avoided
sion but many respondents
cautious about a possible pu
in the United States or fears
to the Year 2000 computer bu
median forecast was 3,025
benchmark All Ordinaries In
end-1999, up 4.85% from wh
poll closed.

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TEL AVIV 100
LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Advanced Technology Ltd.	1858.0	-0.2
Africa Israel Hotels	575.0	4.5
Africa Israel Inv (1985)	21400.0	-2.7
Africa Israel Inv (1985)	190000.0	-1.0
Agis Industries (1983) Ltd.	2050.0	2.0
American Israeli Paper Mills	15290.0	0.5
Azorim Properties	790.0	0.0
Azorim Inv Devel & Construct	3580.0	2.3
Bezeq	1468.0	3.6
Blue Square Chain Investments and Properties Limited	5230.0	1.8
Baran	3180.0	0.6
Dead SEA Bromine	2690.0	1.5
Bayside Land Corp.	48900.0	1.9
Bayside Land Corp	231600.0	0.7
Israel Chemicals Limited	431.0	1.9
Clal Electronics Inds Ltd.	66700.0	0.5
Clal Israel Limited	9930.0	1.4
Clal Industries and Investments	2210.0	2.3
Clal Insurance	4060.0	3.6
DAN Hotels Corp. Ltd.	739.0	2.8
Delta-Galil Industries Ltd.	3990.0	0.8
Discount Investment Corp	13550.0	2.9
Dankner	2100.0	-2.8
Delek Automotive Systems Ltd.	895.0	0.0
Delek Israel Fuel Corp. Ltd.	11490.0	0.0
Discount Mortgage Bank Ltd.	20100.0	0.5
Darban	600.0	1.2
Israel Discount Bank	415.0	4.5
Dead SEA Works Limited	945.0	1.6
JEC	1700.0	-0.5
Elbit Ltd.	1525.0	-0.3
Elco Holdings Limited	2100.0	0.0
Elite Industries Ltd.	3080.0	0.7
Elite Industries Ltd.	15250.0	0.9
Electra Consumer Products	3030.0	2.0
Elco Industries Ltd.	3400.0	0.0
Elron Electronic Inds	7180.0	3.0
El-Rov (Israel) Ltd.	1750.0	-1.0
Electra (Israel) Ltd.	18600.0	0.5
Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd.	4070.0	-0.2
Elbit Systems Ltd.	5720.0	2.3
Europe Israel	2980.0	-0.3
Fibi Holdings Ltd.	3120.0	2.6
First International Mortgage Bank Limited	37600.0	3.0
Formula Systems (1985) Ltd.	10250.0	2.1
First International Bank Of Israel	470.0	3.1
First International Bank Of Israel	2360.0	2.6
Israel General Bank	9370.0	0.2
Granite Hacarmel Investments	465.0	0.0
Hamlet (Israel-Canada) Limited	1643.0	11.0
Hadarim Propert	8500.0	-4.0
Harel Insurance Investments Limited	3700.0	4.6
Harel Insurance Investments Limited	18560.0	4.0
Home Centers (Diy) Ltd.	3891.0	0.0
Housing & Construction Holdings Limited	287.0	2.5
Industrial Buildings Corp.	540.0	0.2
IDB Development Corp. Ltd.	10260.0	2.6
IDB Bank Holding Corp. Ltd.	9770.0	2.5
The Israel Corp Limited	39400.0	-0.3
The Israel Land Development	2140.0	0.9
Isrotel Ltd.	615.0	-3.8
Jalora	795.0	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Kitan Consolidated	410.0	0.0
Knafaim	4320.0	0.0
Koor Industries Limited	41600.0	0.5
Leumi Mortgage Bank Ltd.	76900.0	3.9
Lraz	3290.0	2.5
Leumi Insurance Holdings	240.0	2.6
Bank Leumi Le-Israel	695.0	2.4
Makhteshim-Agan Industries Limited	908.0	3.2
Ma'ariv Holdings Ltd.	3160.0	0.0
Matav-Cable Systems Media Limited	5470.0	1.3
Mehadrin Ltd.	12400.0	0.8
Mayanot Eden	1620.0	0.0
Mishkan Hapoalim Mortgage BK	66000.0	0.5
Melisron	1040.0	-1.0
Maman Cargo Terminals & Hand	574.0	0.0
Menorah Holdings Ltd	1755.0	-0.9
United Mizrahi Bank Ltd.	810.0	2.5
Nice Systems Ltd.	12140.0	-0.3
Nisiba Holdings (1985) Limited	1501.0	0.1
Ofer Development & Investments Limited	1275.0	1.6
Otzar Hayashvuth Hayehudim	30.9	0.0
Ormat Industries	485.0	2.1
Osem Investment Limited	1380.0	1.3
Israel Phoenix Assurance Co.	843.0	0.0
Plasson	4700.0	0.0
Poalim Investments Limited	13200.0	3.1
Point of Sale Limited	3270.0	0.9
Bank Hapoalim Ltd.	912.0	0.1

RETZEF
SMALL CAPITALIZATION
TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Property & Building Corp.	37000.0	3.6
Israel Petrochemical Enterpr	2200.0	3.3
Israel Salt Industries	1946.0	2.1
Solel Boneh Building & Infrastructure Ltd.	4050.0	5.5
Super-Sol Limited	1020.0	0.4
Teva Pharmaceutical	17820.0	1.4
Tefahot Israel Mortgage Bank	195900.0	1.0
Tambour Ltd.	528.0	1.5
Tempo	1710.0	0.0
Ytong Industries	915.0	0.0
A.M.L.D. Limited	890.0	-1.0
Abjac Mazal	1.6	0.0
Abudi Signs Industry Ltd.	42.8	0.0
Ackerstein Industries	456.0	0.0
Ackerstein ZVI	1650.0	0.0
Ackerstein ZVI	8200.0	0.0
Adgar Investment and Development Limited	220.0	0.0
Adgar Investment and Development Limited	21.5	3.9
Adsha Developing Investments & Promotion Ltd.	132.0	0.0
Adumim Chemicals Ltd.	310.0	0.0
Advantech Holdings Ltd	71.0	0.0
Alcon Control and Automation Limited	139.0	7.1
Alcon Control and Automation Limited	680.0	3.0
Alek	204.0	0.0
Africa Israel Hotels	86.0	7.9
AFSK	974.0	0.0
Agis Industries (1983) Ltd.	208.0	9.5
Agn Invest Ltd.	430.0	0.0
Afzad Massuot Yitzhak Limited	2420.0	0.0
Albany Bonded Limited	54.5	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Al-Ban Property & Investment	148.9	0.0
Alliance Tire Co. (1992) Ltd.	590.0	0.0
Alon Hetz Properties & Inv	472.0	3.7
Alon Hetz Properties & Inv	100.0	-9.1
Alumayer Ltd.	290.0	0.0
Alumi Packaging Ltd.	2100.0	0.0
Amanet Management & Systems	861.0	-3.0
Amigar	209.0	0.0
Analyst I.M.S.	850.0	-3.3
Applicom	2400.0	0.8
Arad	1850.0	19.4
Arad Towels	1330.0	0.0
Arazim Financial Services & Investment Limited	140.0	0.0
Argaman Industries	140.0	0.0
Arledan Properties Ltd.	1212.0	0.0
Arpal Aluminum Systems Limited	135.0	0.0
Aryt Industries Ltd.	98.7	0.0
Ashkelon Plywood	489.0	0.0
Ashlad	495.0	1.0
Ashot-Ashkelon Industries Limited	318.0	8.4
Ashtrom Industries Ltd.	530.0	-3.8
Ashtrom Projects	280.0	0.0
Ashtrom Projects	19.0	-12.0
Ashtrom Properties	190.0	0.0
Ashtrom Properties	20.9	20.1
Aspen Building & Development Ltd.	437.0	0.0
Aspen Properties (1990) Limited	136.6	0.0
Aspen Real Estate Ltd.	310.0	0.0
Atlon	67.5	0.0
Atmor Industries (1973) Ltd.	1198.0	0.0
ATX Export Ltd	170.2	0.0
Atzmauth	52000.0	0.0
Atzmon	160.0	0.0
Aura Investments Res & Devel	4520.0	2.7
Averbuch Formica Center Ltd.	600.0	0.0
Aviation Links Ltd.	1070.0	4.8
Avner Oil & Gas Ltd.	4.2	0.0
Ayalon Holdings	935.0	3.5
Azimuth Ltd.	481.0	0.0
Azorim Inv Devel & Construct	505.0	13.7
Azorim Inv Devel & Construct	610.0	5.0
Azorim Inv Devel & Construct	560.0	6.1
Balerone	143.5	0.0
Bank Adanim Mortgage & Loans	321400.0	0.0
Bank Leumi Le-Israel	65.6	13.5
Bank of Jerusalem	190.0	-0.8
BAR	333.0	0.0
BAR SOL	108.7	0.0
Barad	210.0	-8.7
Baranowitz	714.0	8.2
Barkan Wine Cellers	682.0	0.0
Barzal	220.0	0.0
Baumel Moshe	153.5	0.0
Bayside Land Corp.	1800.0	0.0
Beit Shemesh	1839.0	2.9
Beltron Investment Limited	2550.0	0.0
Bel-non-Nurit Ltd	350.0	-2.8
Ben Yakar Gat	4300.0	0.0
Beni	271.0	-5.2
Bezeq	462.0	5.5
Bio Enterprises (H C) Limited	2020.0	0.0
Binar	260.0	0.0
Binyan Investment Co Ltd.	1430.0	10.0
Bin	260.0	0.0
Birman Wood Industries-1992	153.9	6.5
Bonei Tichon	499.0	0.0
Borjour	670.0	0.0
Boutous Gad	270.0	0.0
Boutous Gad	24.0	0.0
Boutous Granite & Marble Ltd.	130.1	0.0
Brand	84.7	0.0
Bril Shoe Industries Ltd.	37.0	0.0
Brooksade Investments Ltd.	14.3	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Brosh	105.0	0.0
C Holdings	284.0	-2.1
Camel	2240.0	0.9
Canyokol	30.0	0.0
Caprice Jewellery (1985) Limited	292.0	0.0
Caprice Jewellery (1985) Limited	60.0	5.3
Carmel Mortgage & Invest Bnk	482.0	2.8
Castro Model Limited	530.0	0.0
Catalena	431.0	0.0
Caesaria Land & Resort Ltd.	6580.0	0.0
Camgrical	239.0	4.8
Central Securities Limited	840.0	8.2
Centre	150.0	0.0
Cham	398.0	0.5
Chayun Computers	140.0	-13.0
Chempal	490.0	0.0
Chim-Nir	332.0	0.0
CI Systems	105.0	-8.3
Cidav Printed Circuits Limited	387.0	1.8
Cinor Darom	353.0	0.0
Clal Tourism Limited	557.0	0.0
Cohen Bem	153.1	0.0
Cohen Development & Industrial Buildings Limited	124.0	0.0
Comfy Interactive Movies Ltd.	155.0	0.0
Comfy Interactive Movies Ltd.	7.0	0.0
Compubite	230.0	4.5
Computer Direct	986.0	0.0
Comsoft Technologies	920.0	-1.1
Comtech	481.0	3.4
Comtrans Transportation & Eng.	845.0	0.0
Contahal Limited	1200.0	0.0
Contractors	21800.0	0.0
Coral Beach	781.0	0.0
Crow	665.0	0.8
Crystal Consumer Products Limited	530.0	0.0
Cyclone Aviation Products	5920.0	-0.5
Dalton	1391.0	0.0
DAN Rent-A-Car	834.0	7.1
Danbar Ltd.	3430.0	0.0
Danbar Ltd.	9700.0	0.0
Danbar Resources Develop	4200.0	0.2
Danbar Technologies Ltd.	3860.0	0.0
Danel	90.0	0.0
Danel (Adir Yeoshua) Limited	2260.0	2.7
Danel (Adir Yeoshua) Limited	228.0	14.0
Dankner	400.0	0.0
Danly	430.0	0.0
Dared	109.4	0.0
Darban	70.0	20.7
Darea	168.0	0.0
Darlon	299.0	0.0
Data Automation Limited	690.0	0.0
DCL Technologies Limited	722.0	0.0
Decision Systems Israel Limited	375.0	1.4
Degem Systems	495.0	4.0
Delek Drilling - LP	18.6	11.4
Delek Energy Systems Limited	1400.0	0.0
Decimy	1062.0	0.0
Di Rom Building Invest & Development	1260.0	0.0
Digal Investments & Holdings Limited	1340.0	-0.7
DJG Factory of Electrical Supplies Limited	425.0	-1.2
Dim Movies Production LP	1.0	0.0
Dolev Insurance Co. Limited	387.0	3.8
Domicar	461.0	0.0
Dor Berger	330.0	0.0
DOR Chemicals Limited	37.1	0.0
Dor Energy	1349.0	7.7
Dorea Investment & Developments Limited	50.6	0.0
Don Engineering	472.0	0.0
Dovrat Shrem	1496.0	1.8
DS Inv	720.0	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Dubek	3.1	0.0
Dubek	3.0	0.0
Duniec Brothers Limited	236.0	0.0
E & M Computing	1339.0	0.0
E Solomon Investment & Consultancy Limited	576.0	0.0
Elhot Capital Markets Ltd.	525.0	0.0
Ein! Industries	138.3	0.0
ELA R Construction Engineer	275.0	0.0
Elad Hotels Ltd.	422.0	0.0
Elad Hotels Ltd.	43.0	0.0
Elden Tech Ltd.	155.0	0.0
Electrochemical Industries 1952 Ltd.	295.0	-1.7
Electrode Works Zika Ltd.	565.0	0.0
Electrode Works Zika Ltd.	2540.0	0.0
Electronics Line (EI) Ltd.	899.0	0.0
Elgar Migdal Investments Co.	7390.0	0.0
El-Kanit Development Ltd.	400.0	0.0
Eliam Migdal Investment CP	5140.0	0.0
Elrod-Development & Real EST	1.0	0.0
Elrod-Development & Real EST	208.0	0.0
El-Rov (Israel) Ltd.	66.0	-4.2
Emek	193.4	0.0
Engel Trade Centers Ltd.	59.0	0.0
Enterprise	432.0	0.0
Equital Ltd.	1446.0	1.9
Europe Israel	1249.0	0.0
Evrot Industries Ltd.	299.0	1.4
Evrot Industries Ltd.	35.0	8.1
Excellence	1500.0	2.0
Export Investment Corp.	852.0	4.4
F.C.T. Formula Computer Technologies Limited	1170.0	-0.8
Feldman Industr	250.0	0.0
Feuchtwanger Industries Ltd.	35300.0	1.7
Fidelity Gold	2830.0	0.0
Financial Levers Ltd.	24.0	0.0
Five J	371.0	0.0
Flying Carpet Limited	1180.0	0.0
FMS Enterprises Migun Limited	1787.0	0.0
Frutarom	410.0	2.5
Gachelet	12900.0	0.2
Gal Beach Hotel	975.0	0.0
Galran	1270.0	0.0
Gama Communications Limited	139.0	0.0
Gametronic	633.0	-0.6
Gambit Computer Communications Limited	2780.0	0.0
GAN Shmuel Food Industries	400.0	-4.8
GAN Shmuel Food Industries	1375.0	-2.0
Ganey Or Investments Limited	106.0	0.0
Gazit	700.0	0.0
Gazit Globe (1982) Limited	852.0	0.0
Gibor	62.0	0.0
Gibor Sabrina Alpha Socks Limited	202.0	0.0
Gibor Sport Holdings Limited	605.0	-2.4
Gibor Sport Holdings Limited	92.0	0.0
Gilboa	40.0	0.0
Gilon Investments (1979) Limited	180.0	0.0
Gilat Telecommunications	1815.0	1.9
Givot Olam Oil Exploration - LP (1993)	101.3	-4.4
Golan Fine Crafts (1977) Limited	486.0	0.0
Gold	405.0	0.0
Golden House	512.0	0.0
Green Software Development Limited	240.0	0.0
H Aloni Empress Ltd.	279.0	0.0
Habas	3450.0	-2.0
Hachsharat Hayishuv Hotels	325.0	1.9
Hachsharat Hayishuv Hotels	80.0	-4.8
Hadar Insurance Co.	2510.0	0.8
Hadar Insurance Co.	673.0	0.0
Hadarim Propert	1457.0	2.8
Hamakor Printing Limited	135.1	0.0
Hamashbir Fashion Warehouses Limited	510.0	

	LAST	CHANGE*
		-3.4
Hashmira Security Technologies (1971) Limited	818.0	0.0
Hashmira Security Technologies (1971) Limited	192.0	0.0
Hason	298.0	0.0
Hasin ESH	867.0	0.0
Hatehof Ltd	156.0	0.0
Hatehof Ltd	73.1	0.0
Hayel Holdings (1985) Ltd.	953.0	0.0
Hayel Holdings (1985) Ltd.	119.1	0.0
HED Arzi	270.0	8.8
HGB Marketing & Distribution of Building Limited	439.0	0.0
Hiron Trade Investment IND	10150.0	0.0
Hiron Trade Investment IND	35000.0	0.0
HL Finance & Services Ltd.	2370.0	0.0
Hod Metal Products Manufacturing Co. Limited	103.6	0.0
Holit	197.8	0.0
Hotel Yamit Tel Aviv Limited	170.0	0.0
IES Electronics Industries	49.0	0.0
IES Electronics Industries	250.0	4.2
Ilan GAT Engineers Ltd.	118.0	0.0
ILD Insurance	377.0	8.2
Imco Industries Ltd.	925.0	1.5
Industrial Buildings Corp.	12.9	-7.9
Industrial Buildings Corp.	27.0	-1.1
Industrial Development	1544.0	2.0
Industries & Investments of Safan Ltd.	1275.0	1.3
INOC Dead Sea LP	1.0	0.0
INOC Dead Sea LP	45.9	0.2
Intercosma Ltd.	1050.0	0.0
Inter-Gama Investment Co. Ltd.	2600.0	0.0
Inter-Gama Investment Co. Ltd.	11700.0	0.0
Inventech Investment Co.	800.0	0.0
Investment Co. Founded Ampa	9480.0	0.0
Investment Corp. Of Mizrahi	10250.0	0.0
ISAL	1656.0	0.7
ISAL	390.0	0.0
Iscal Holdings Ltd.	1000.0	0.0
ISE Consulting Directing Ltd.	1650.0	2.5
Iscolor	509.0	0.0
Israel Adler Ltd.	120.0	0.0
Israel Citrus Plantations	31700.0	0.0
Israel Citrus Plantations	110000.0	12.2
Israel Cold Storage & Supply	2080.0	2.0
Israel Phoenix Assurance Co.	2970.0	1.4
Israel Properties Rental CP	5300.0	0.0
Israel Steel Mills	122.4	0.0
Israeli Processing Co. Ltd.	100.0	0.0
Israel-Rassco Investment Co.	25800.0	-9.8
Israel-Rassco Investment Co.	5730.0	-0.1
Isralom Properties	900.0	0.0
Isramco - LP	2.6	4.0
Issta Lines Limited	2290.0	0.0
Istec Capital Markets Limited	33.5	0.0
Ituran	3990.0	1.8
Jacobinski	113.1	0.0
Jaysour Mortgage Bank Ltd.	181.0	0.0
JEC	199.8	0.0
Jerusalem Oil Exploration	589.0	4.6
Jerusalem Oil Exploration	4.2	0.0
Jewelex	240.0	6.7
Jordan Investment Ltd.	459.0	0.0
Jordan River Hotel	460.0	0.0
Kadmany	110.0	-7.6
Kadouri Signs Limited	849.0	-0.0
Kadury & Hai (Molet) Assets & Investments Limited	852.0	0.0
Kafrit Industries (1993) Limited	1160.0	0.0
Kalant Carmon Software Services	1470.0	6.3
Kamor	380.0	5.6
Kardan Investments Limited		

	LAST	CH
Kardan Investments Limited	2650.0	0.0
Kargal Limited	585.0	7.9
Katz	126.0	0.0
Kedem Chemicals	2600.0	1.2
Kenon G.A.P. Development (1985)	130.0	0.0
Keisa Gap Holdings	185.3	0.2
Kesher Rent a Car Limited	825.0	0.0
Keter Publishing House Limited	598.0	0.0
Kind	15.7	0.0
King Engine Bearings Ltd.	217.0	0.0
Kinneret View Hotel Limited	189.0	0.0
Klach Kinur Ltd.	183.0	0.0
Klal Holdings & International Development	220	0.0
Kivun	37.0	0.0
Kili Industries Ltd.	8850.0	0.6
Kopel Limited (New)	355.0	9.9
L M Lipski Limited	4780.0	0.0
Lachish Industries Ltd.	3000.0	0.0
Lamont	750.0	0.0
Lapidoth	54.2	0.0
Laser Technology	470.0	4.4
Lavlav	450.0	0.0
Leader	1070.0	2.9
Leeden	1450.0	0.8
Lego	382.0	0.0
Levi	504.0	0.0
Levi	37.0	0.0
Lieber Subsoil Industries Limited	334.0	0.0
Liged Investments & Building	253.0	0.0
Lighterage Supp	770.0	0.0
Lims-Lab Information & Mgmt Systems	240.0	
Lipman	3770.0	0.
Lito Offset Ziv Limited	205.0	0.
Lodzia-Rotex Investment Limited	1128.0	0.
Lodzia-Rotex Investment Limited	4130.0	-9.
Loewenthal	880.0	0.
Luchot Hagalil	23.0	0.
Lutan Engineering Co. Limited	153.5	0.
Lumir Holdings Ltd.	2940.0	4.
M&M Cohen Building and Construction Limited	0.0	
Maabarot	1080.0	0.
Macpal	545.0	0.
Macpal	27.5	1.
Mafil	406.0	0.
Magam	197.3	2.
Magma	285.0	4.
Magor Holdings Ltd.	1808.0	0.
Magor Holdings Ltd.	7210.0	0.
Malkor Hafornelika Ltd.	100.0	0.
Man Food Industries & Investments Limited	59	0.0
Marathon Capital Development Fund Limited	0.0	
Maritime Bank Of Israel	1428.0	1.
Mashav Refrigeration Industries Limited	78	0.0
Mashov Computers Ltd.	5193.0	5.
Mashov Computers Marketing Limited	988.0	16
Matav-Cable Systems Media Limited	207.0	5.
Matityahu Lifshitz Ltd.	1520	-4.
Matityahu Lifshitz Ltd.	626.0	0.
Maxima Air Separation Center	380.0	0.
Maxima Air Separation Center	1426.0	0.
Mediterranean Sea Hotels Limited	39.3	0.
Medtechnica	611.0	3.
Medtechnica	54.9	0.
Megason	57.5	0.
Meir Ezra & Sons	1879.0	0.
Mellaron	39.9	0.
Metal Inter Industry (1973) Limited	546.0	0.
Mendelsohn	291.0	0.
Menorah Holdings Ltd.	7710.0	3.

مكبرا من الأصل

مكذا من الأمل

FINANCIAL MARKETS/ CLOSING PRICES

	LAST	CHANGE*
BER Industries Limited	850.0	-0.6
Merhav	145.0	3.6
Meshulam Levinstein CON & EN	2990.0	0.0
Meshulam Levinstein CON & EN	4450.0	0.0
Maytavit	104.0	0.0
Michael Building & Inv (5)	19.0	0.0
Middle East Tube	170.0	0.0
Middle East Tube	9.0	0.0
Milaley Etze Karmiel Limited	397.0	0.0
Miloumor	1400.0	0.0
Milomor	95.0	0.0
Minrav	132.9	0.0
Mini Line	657.0	0.0
Minrav Holdings Ltd.	14050.0	-1.1
Mivtach Shamir	2590.0	-0.4
Mivtach Shamir Finance Limited	1380.0	0.0
MLI Lasers (1992) Ltd.	71.1	0.0
M.L.L.	306.0	0.0
MM	101.0	0.0
MMD Technology Israel 1983	1950.0	0.0
Modgal	785.0	0.6
Molet Israel Technology Fund	200.0	7.8
Molet Israel Technology Fund	245.0	5.2
MOR	388.0	0.0
Moshkovitz	118.0	0.0
MTI	184.0	-1.7
MTM	1530.0	0.0
Mula Center-Beauty	223.0	0.0
Multiple Investments & Developing Limited		899.0
0.0		
Mul-T-Lock Ltd.	680.0	0.0
Myrag	149.0	0.0
Mzpk	807.0	0.0
N. Feldman & Son Limited	77.4	0.0
Namet	115.0	0.0
Naphtha	23.5	0.0
Nationals - PRF	127.0	0.0
Natour-Travel Agents Association for Organized Tours Limited	505.0	-6.5
Navigator Inv.	243.0	0.0
Nechushtan Invt Co. Ltd.	465.0	0.0
Nechushtan Invt Co. Ltd.	2600.0	0.0
Nechushtan Prop	155.9	0.0
Nechushtan Prop	77.9	0.0
Negev Ceramics Ltd.	189.0	0.0
Neot Aviv Ltd.	7500.0	0.0
Nesaush Zannex Limited	427.0	0.0
Neurim Pharmaceuticals (1991) Limited	—	—
Neve Arbel	185.0	0.0
Nevim	384.0	0.0
Neviot	743.0	-4.0
NIA Metal Works & Electronic Painting Limited		269.0
0.0		
Nilauv Computers (Israel) Ltd.	694.0	0.0
Nisko Industries (1992) Limited	1399.0	-0.5
Nissan	260.0	0.0
NMC Music Ltd.	248.0	0.0
Noga	1489.0	0.0
Noga Insurance Company Limited	79.0	0.0
Nordan - LP		—
Nordan Tech	500.0	0.0
Norlok	596.0	0.0
NUR Outdoor Advertising Ltd.	63.0	0.0
Oceana Advanced Industries	314.0	6.1
Ocif Investment & Developmen	8490.0	2.3
Ocif Investment & Developmen	701.0	-6.5
Ofer	8250.0	0.0
Ofer Commercial Centers Limited	600.0	0.0
Ofer Development & Investments Limited		1275.0
1.6		
Otis Textile Ltd.	1150.0	2.1
Ogden	61.0	0.0
Oil Fields LP	2.4	0.0
Olizky Mining Ltd.	38.0	0.0
Omni Food Brands Limited	253.0	0.0
Omni-Etchot Limited	190.0	-9.5
Ophir	299.0	0.0
Ophir Tours Limited	440.0	0.0
Oppenheimer Jerusalem Sweets	89.0	0.0
Optima Management Airwest 66	129.0	0.0
Orazit Ltd.	500.0	0.0
Orbit-Alchut Technologies	839.0	3.6
Orda Print Industries Ltd.	2690.0	-2.2
Orll Holdings Limited	365.0	0.0
Orlite Industries (1959) Ltd.	318.0	3.3
Orlite Industries (1959) Ltd.	60.0	0.0
Ormat Industries	1.0	0.0
Orsys Clinical Systems Limited	2680.0	0.0
Ortal Diecasting (1993) Ltd.	399.0	5.0
Otzar Hatiltion Hamekomi Ltd	23000.0	1.8
Oz Atid	388.0	0.0
OZ Hydraulica	115.0	0.0
OZ Investment Co. Ltd.	168.2	0.0
Packer Plada Limited	5960.0	2.1
Palram Industries (1990) Ltd.	850.0	2.3
Pama Investment & Properties	560.0	0.0
Pan Door Industries Limited	250.0	0.0
Pardess	600.0	0.0
Parifon	54.5	0.0
Payton Industries Limited	500.0	0.0
Paz-Chan Ltd.	528.0	0.0
PCB Ltd.	1420.0	1.9
Pereg	117.0	-4.9
Pedolase	1065.0	1.4
Pica	289.0	1.4
Pilat Technologies International Ltd	95.0	0.0
Pinros Holdings Limited	122.0	0.0
Plasson	4700.0	0.0
Plasson	463.0	0.0
Plasto SAC	586.0	1.4
Plasto SAC	80.0	0.0
Polim Investments Limited	2200.0	-3.5
Polgat Ltd.	421.0	1.0
Polgat Ltd.	1734.0	3.7
Polak	200.0	0.0
Polygon Real Estate Ltd	2000.0	0.0
Poseidon Industries	97.8	0.0
Pristog Enterprises Limited	401.0	0.0
Pricker Enterprise Ltd.	174.8	0.0
Profit	349.0	0.0
Properties Enterprise and Development Limited		1249.0
0.0		
Pyramid	54.5	0.0
Queenco Ltd.	35.7	0.0
Rabintex	400.0	0.0
Ralco Agencies	209.0	0.0
RAM ZUR	62.0	0.0
Ramgor Investments Limited	170.0	0.0
Ranitech Limited	516.0	0.0
Rapac	2250.0	1.4
Rassco Rural & Suburban Settlement	1530.0	9.3
Ratio Oil Exploration - LP	1.0	0.0
RAV CAR	160.0	0.0
Raved	124.0	0.0
RED SEA Hotels Ltd.	890.0	-1.1
Regency Jerusalem Hotel	123.0	-3.9
Rekah	390.0	0.0
Reshet	54.0	0.0
Rimoni Industries Limited	794.0	0.0
Rogosin Enterprises Of Israe	1740.0	-2.3
Rogosin Enterprises Of Israe	425.0	0.0
Romtech	430.0	0.0
Rosebud Medical	97.5	1.8
Rosenthal	100.4	0.0
Rotem	233.0	0.0
Rotshtein Construction & Assets Company Limited		
115.0	0.0	
RSL Electronics Limited	519.0	3.8
RSL Electronics Limited	318.0	0.3
Sadot Research and Development Fund Limited		
245.0	1.7	
Sahar Development & Invest	2850.0	0.0
Sahar Development & Invest	401.0	0.0
Sahar Securities	592.0	1.9
Salomon A Angel Ltd.	5560.0	0.0
Saniacol Ltd.	355.0	0.0
Sano-Brunos Enterprises Ltd.	2780.0	-0.4
Sano-Brunos Enterprises Ltd.	13400.0	0.0
Sarkal	538.0	0.0
Sarlab	27.9	-10.0
Scope Metals Trading & Technical Services Ltd.		104.0
0.0		
Scope Metals Trading & Technical Services Ltd.		1270.0
0.0		
Secom (Israel)	278.0	-1.1
Semicom Industries Limited	127.0	0.0
Sereton	355.0	0.0
Shahar Hamiflercum (1991)	950.0	0.0
Shamir	578.0	0.0
Shaniv	600.0	0.0
Shay Bar Real Estate Investments Limited		69.8
0.0		
Shekel	220.0	0.0
Shekem Limited	66.1	0.0
Shaleg Textile Limited	115.0	0.0
Shem TOV	305.0	0.0
Shemen Industries Ltd.	12100.0	0.0
Shlaotot Metal Works Ltd.	70.4	0.0
Shore Zone Coastr Property	376.0	3.0
Shtang	103.9	0.0
Shulamit Gardens Hotels Limited	465.0	0.0
Simcha Urieli & Sons Engin	102.0	0.0
Sira	680.0	3.9
Setec	300.0	-2.0
Solomon Holding	438.0	6.3
Solomon Holding	20.4	0.0
Spectronix Ltd.	1322.0	2.0
STG International Ltd.	1100.0	0.0
Sunfrost Ltd.	4500.0	2.5
Super Emad Ltd.	1100.0	2.3
Super Emad Ltd.	143.7	0.0
Synopsis	154.0	0.0
Tael Manufacturing Plywood	165.7	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Tadbik	220.0	0.0
Tadiran Consumer Ltd.	530.0	0.0
TAL	130.0	0.0
Taldor Computer Systems (1986) Limited		547.0
-3.0		
Tashluz Invest & Holdings		—
Tasis	189.0	0.0
TAT Aero Equipment Industrie	370.0	0.0
TAT Aero Equipment Industrie	1287.0	0.0
Taya Communication	375.0	0.0
Taya Inv (5)	754.0	1.9
Team Computers & Systems Ltd	5900.0	0.7
Team Computers & Systems Ltd.	530.0	0.0
Technoplast Industries Ltd.	488.0	-1.0
Tadea Technological Development & Automation Ltd.		
1420.0	0.0	
Tadea Technological Development & Automation Ltd.		
28.5	-63.1	
Talan	1370.0	0.0
Telays	1350.0	0.0
Telays	201.0	4.7
Tenne	196.0	0.0
Teuza-A Fairchild Tech Vent	200.0	0.0
Teuza-A Fairchild Tech Vent	202.0	0.5
The Israel Corp. Limited	176900.0	0.0
Third Millennium Tourism & Recreation Limited		210.0
0.0		
Tikon-Veal Holdings Ltd.	129.7	0.0
TIV Textile Group (1989) Ltd.	369.0	0.0
TMM Integrated Recycling Industries Limited		165.0
1.2		
Tobias	1839.0	0.0
Tom Holdings Limited	918.0	-6.5
Topper Fashion Enterp (1977)	45.2	0.0
Total Compounds Limited	379.0	0.0
Trade Bank Limited	365.0	0.0
Tradetel	513.0	0.0
Transclal	804.0	0.0
Trendline Information and Communication Services Limited	1800.0	0.0
Tefinauer	1033.0	5.4
Tzmiha Investment House Ltd.	475.0	0.0
Uniber (1)	754.0	0.0
Unico Investment Co. Ltd.	4300.0	0.0
Unicorn Investments Co. Ltd.	35.0	0.0
Unidress Industries Ltd.	2130.0	0.0
United Mizrahi Bank Ltd.	68.1	0.0
Universal-H Hoffman & Sons	530.0	0.0
Urdan Industries Ltd.	309.0	3.0
Videomatrix	28.7	0.0
Villar	432.0	0.0
Villiger	30.2	0.0
Vitalgo Textile Works Ltd.	280.0	0.0
VSP Capital Holdings Limited	958.0	0.0
Vulcan	491.0	0.0
Wardinon	25000.0	0.0
Wardinon	156.0	0.0
Willy Food	1186.0	6.8
Willy Food	265.0	0.0
Wolfman Industries Ltd.	471.0	0.0
Wolfman Industries Ltd.	2020.0	-1.9
Wolson	68700.0	0.0
Yaad Industries Ltd.	289.0	-5.2
Yaad Industries Ltd.	80.0	0.0
Yaakov Engel Constr Enter Co.	509.0	-1.7
YAD	548.0	0.0
Yadpaz Steel Service Co. Limited	259.0	0.0
Yana Systems	871.0	0.0
Yada Computers & Software (1982 Israel) Limited		
1430.0	0.0	
Yeoda	187.9	6.8
Yonah Hotels Ltd.	230.0	0.0
YT America - Israel Investment Company Limited		
2300.0	1.3	
YT America - Israel Investment Company Limited		
340.0	58.1	
Zafrir Engineers Limited	560.0	0.0
Zeevi Computers & Technology Limited	3950.0	14.5
Zeevi Retail Chains Limited	48700.0	0.0
Zeler Eblagon	390.0	0.0
Zeler Eblagon Investments & Securities	3.4	0.0
Zikit Properties & Development (1956) Limited		2750.0
0.0		
Zikit Properties & Development (1956) Limited		10100.0
0.0		
Znomatel	540.0	0.0
Zion Holdings Ltd.	16000.0	0.0
Zohar Industries (1986) Ltd.	226.0	0.0
Zoko	299.0	0.0
ZUR Shamir Holdings Ltd.	162.0	2.0

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

AMEX

American Israel Paper Mills	37.63	1.69
Ampal American Israel	4.19	3.08
Carmel Container SYS	5.88	2.17
Electrochemical Industries 1952 Ltd.	..	
Emultek Ltd.	5.63	-1.1
ETZ Lavud Ltd.	9.0	0.0
ETZ Lavud Ltd.	6.25	0.0
Integrated Technology USA	1.56	4.17

NASDAQ

A.C.S. Electronics Limited	1.63	0.0
Accent Software International Ltd.	0.22	-12.5
Accent Software International Ltd.	0.28	0.0
Aladdin Knowledge Systems	9.25	0.0
American Israeli Paper Mills	37.63	1.69
Ampal American Israel	11.69	0.0
Arel Communications & Software Ltd	5.88	0.0
Arel Communications & Software Ltd	0.94	-8.25
Better Online Solutions Ltd.	4.28	-8.67
Better Online Solutions Ltd.	0.28	0.0
Biogen Inc.	110.38	1.09
Bio-Technology General Corp.	6.38	-5.99
Blue Square-Israel Ltd.	12.69	0.0
BVR Systems Ltd.	9.19	0.0
BVR Technologies Ltd.	2.88	-2.13
Carmel Container SYS	5.88	2.17
Check Point Software Technologies	36.69	0.0
Comverse Technology Inc.	79.56	-0.47
Data Systems & Software	2.06	10.0
Cimatron Ltd	2.44	11.43
Crystal Systems Solutions	7.88	-4.54
ECI Telecom Ltd	37.88	-7.76
Edusoft Ltd.	8.16	0.0
DSP Group Inc.	14.75	0.0
Elbit Ltd.	3.89	-1.67
Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd.	10.44	3.73
Elbit Systems Ltd.	14.19	-0.44
Elbit Vision Systems Ltd	1.69	0.0
Electric Fuel Corp.	3.38	1.89
Electrochemical Industries 1952 Ltd.	..	—
Electronics FOR Imaging	37.06	-4.51
Elron Electronic Inds	17.75	3.27
Elscint Ltd.	11.69	0.54
Etek Ltd.	1.13	0.0
Emultek Ltd.	5.63	-1.1
Engel General Developers Ltd.	1.88	0.0
ESC Medical Systems Ltd.	5.13	-1.21
Eshed Robotec (1982) Ltd.	0.38	0.0
ETZ Lavud Ltd.	6.25	0.0
ETZ Lavud Ltd.	9.0	0.0
Formula Systems (1985) Ltd.	25.25	0.0
Forsoft Ltd.	8.63	-0.72
Fundtech Ltd.	23.38	3.89
G. Willi-Food International	1.38	15.79
Galileo Technology Ltd.	23.0	0.0
Genesis Development & Constr	0.63	-15.67
Genesis Development & Constr	0.22	0.0
Genesis Development & Constr	2.25	-2.7
Genesis Development & Constr	1.5	-14.29
Gilat Communications Ltd.	14.19	9.68
Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd.	61.38	-2.09
Healthcare Technologies Ltd.	0.94	-6.25
Home Centers (Diy) Ltd.	9.0	-2.7
IIC Industries Inc.	10.0	1.27
IIS Intelligent Information	0.75	0.0
ISG International Software Group Ltd	11.81	3.85
Isramco Inc.	2.31	0.0
The Israel Land Development		..
Koor Industries Limited	20.56	0.0
Lanoptics Ltd.	3.56	-6.56
Level 8 Systems Inc.	9.75	0.0
Logal Educational Software	0.59	18.75
M-Systems Flash Disk Pioneer	4.25	-2.16
Madge Networks NV	3.44	1.85
Magal Security Systems Ltd.	3.0	0.0
Magic Software Enterprises	5.75	0.0
Matav-Cable Systems Media Limited	27.25	0.0
Medis El Ltd.	7.69	2.5
Memco Software Ltd.	10.0	0.0
MER Telemanagement Solutions	1.63	-3.7
Netmanage Inc.	2.81	1.09
Neuromedical Systems Inc.	0.22	0.0
New Dimension Software	51.63	0.12
Nexus Telecommunication SYS	2.38	-5.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Nice Systems Ltd.	30.0	-0.83
Noga Electro-Mechanical Industries (1986) Ltd.	—	
Noga Electro-Mechanical Industries (1986) Ltd.	0.88	
0.0		
NUR Macroprinters Ltd.	2.97	0.0
Opisystems Solutions Ltd.	7.88	-1.56
Optomedic Medical Technologies Ltd	0.88	0.0
Optomedic Medical Technologies Ltd	0.28	0.0
Orbotech Ltd.	49.88	-1.24
Orckit Communications Ltd.	15.38	6.85
Oshap Technologies Ltd.	13.38	0.0
Paradigm Geophysical Ltd.	4.75	7.04
Point of Sale Limited	8.0	-1.54
Rada Electronic Inds Ltd.	0.97	0.0
Radcom Ltd.	2.44	-2.5
RIT Technologies Ltd.	1.81	0.0

NYSE

Amdocs	22.13	3.81
Blue Square-Israel Ltd.	12.69	0.0
DSP Communications Inc	14.13	-5.83
Elscint Ltd.	11.69	0.54
First Israel Fund	12.5	0.0
Koor Industries Limited	20.63	0.0
PEC Israel Economic Corp.	29.75	0.85
Simula Inc.	5.75	-1.08
Super-Sol Limited	12.56	0.5
Tefron Ltd.	7.63	-1.61

LONDON

Batm Advanced Communications	260.5	3.17
Technoplast Industries Ltd.	77.5	0.0
Selector Ltd.	2.5	0.0
Pilat Technologies International Ltd	13.5	0.0

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

3com Corp.	26.06	5.84
AT&T Corp.	82.81	-1.41
Abbott Laboratories	50.5	1.64
Adobe Systems Inc.	48.06	0.13
Advanced Micro Devices	16.94	-2.52
Aeroquip-Vickers Inc.	57.5	0.22
AES Corp.	36.13	0.35
Aetna Inc.	80.44	2.14
Aflac Inc.	48.06	-0.39
Air Products & Chemicals Inc.	32.0	-0.39
Airtouch Communications	94.19	1.28
Alberto-Culver Co.	23.88	-1.55
Albertson's Inc.	56.56	2.03
Alcan Aluminium Ltd.	24.25	1.84
Alcoa Inc.	38.63	-0.64
Allegheny Teledyne Inc.	19.5	1.63
Allergan Inc.	89.75	0.35
Alliedsignal Inc.	45.44	0.83
Allstate Corp.	38.63	-1.44
Alltel Corp.	59.13	0.96
Alza Corp.	51.56	-0.84
Amazon.Com Inc.	134.5	-1.91
Amerada Hess Corp.	50.44	-0.25
Ameren Corporation	37.63	1.52
America Online Inc.	95.44	2.83
America West Holdings Corp.	17.25	-0.36
American Electric Power	40.81	-0.76
American Express Company	123.25	4.78
American General Corp.	75.25	-0.33
American Greetings	22.63	-0.55
American Home Products Corp.	63.94	3.33
American International Group	119.94	-0.83
American National Insurance	73.38	-0.84
American Power Conversion	31.0	-4.98
American Stores Co.	34.06	2.06
Ameritech Corporation/Del	65.0	2.72
Ametek Inc.	17.75	1.79
Amgen Inc.	74.56	5.76
AMP Inc.	54.69	1.27
AMR Corp/Del.	56.0	-1.97
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	34.94	-2.85
Analog Devices	26.63	-3.18
Andrew Corp.	12.5	-3.38
Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc.	77.38	0.16
AON Corp.	84.94	1.47
Apache Corp.	23.75	-1.55
Apple Computer Inc.	32.06	-1.49
Applied Magnetics Corp.	3.75	-1.64
Applied Materials Inc.	64.63	1.92
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.	15.06	3.49
Armstrong World Inds Inc.	50.19	-0.5
ASA Ltd.	18.13	0.69
Asarco Inc.	14.69	0.86
Ascend Communications Inc.	80.19	-0.77
Ashland Inc.	42.38	0.3
Associates First Capital Corp.	44.13	0.0
Atlantic Richfield Co.	60.25	-1.03
Automatic Data Processing	38.63	-0.32
Autodesk Inc.	41.19	-1.79
Automatic Data Processing	38.63	-0.32
Autozone Inc.	34.13	1.11
Avery-Dennison Corp.	56.0	4.92
Avnet Inc.	36.69	-2.52
Avon Products	47.5	0.0
Baimco Corp.	5.25	1.21
Baker Hughes Inc.	21.88	-2.78
Ball Corp.	42.31	2.11
Baltimore Gas & Electric	28.19	0.48
Bandag Inc.	30.88	-1.2
Bank of New York Co. Inc.	37.75	1.34
Bank One Corp.	56.06	-1.1
BankAmerica Corp.	72.19	0.96
BankBoston Corporation	45.63	3.84
Bankers Trust Corp.	88.81	0.57
Bard (C.R.) Inc.	59.06	2.61
Barnes & Noble Inc.	30.31	11.75
Barrick Gold Corp.	19.0	0.33
Battle Mountain Gold Co.	3.75	1.7
Bausch & Lomb Inc.	65.19	1.66
Baxter International Inc.	74.56	2.14
BB&T Corporation	39.63	1.12
Bear Stearns Companies Inc.	47.25	1.07
Becton Dickinson & Co.	36.63	4.39
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.	32.75	2.54
Bell Atlantic Corp.	55.06	1.73
Bell Industries Inc.	11.25	0.0
Bellsouth Corporation	46.19	0.41
Belo (A.H.) Corp.	18.38	-0.34
Beverly Enterprises Inc.	4.94	-5.95
Bemis Co.	35.38	0.71
Bestfoods	47.75	0.13
Bethlehem Steel Corp.	8.31	-0.75
Biomet Inc.	41.44	4.41
Black & Decker Corporation	49.75	-0.62
Block H & R Inc.	49.81	0.0
BMC Software Inc.	37.88	-3.81
Boeing Co.	34.69	1.46
Boise Cascade Corp.	31.25	-1.77
Books-A-Million Inc.	10.25	-1.21
Bowater Inc.	41.38	0.15
Boston Scientific Corp.	31.94	7.13
Briggs & Stratton	51.31	1.74
British Telecom Plc	175.0	0.94
British Airways Plc.	72.06	1.69
British Steel Plc.	19.81	0.64
Brown Group Inc.	14.44	-0.43
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.	62.5	-0.89
Brown-Forman Corp.	63.38	0.59
Browning-Ferris Inds	38.75	-1.43
Brunswick Corp.	20.25	-3.57
Burlington Northern/Santa FE	33.75	0.94
Burlington Resources Inc.	37.44	-1.8
Cabletron Systems	7.88	-1.56
Cabot Corp.	22.13	-1.67
Campbell Soup Company	42.19	2.58
Canadian Pacific Ltd.	19.63	2.95
Capital One Financial Corp.	133.75	-1.58
Capstead Mortgage Corp.	5.0	-1.24
Cardinal Health Inc.	73.63	3.33
Caremark Corporation	19.44	-1.58
Carnival Corp.	45.69	1.53
Carolina Power & Light	40.81	0.82
Carpenter Technology	24.19	1.04
Caterpillar Inc.	50.38	2.81
CBS Corp.	36.38	-0.68
Centex Corp.	34.69	-0.36
Central & South West Corp.	24.75	-0.25
Centura Banks Inc.	66.13	0.1
Ceridian Corp.	34.63	-3.82
Champion International Corp.	38.0	-4.7
Charming Shoppes	4.16	0.0
Chase Manhattan Corp.	88.38	-0.63
Chevron Corporation	84.94	2.03
Chubb Corp.	59.38	-2.16
Cigna Corp.	78.81	3.11
Cincinnati Financial Corp.	37.5	0.0
Cinergy Corp.	29.19	0.43

	LAST	CHANGE*
Circuit City Stores-Circuit	67.56	0.19
Cisco Systems Inc.	105.5	1.08
Citigroup Inc.	65.85	2.93
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.	34.56	-1.78
Clorox Company	126.25	0.25
CMS Energy Corp.	41.0	0.51
Coastal Corp.	36.13	1.4
Coca-Cola Co.	66.31	5.47
Coca-Cola Enterprises	33.88	-0.73
Colgate-Palmolive Company	93.5	1.09
Columbia Energy Group	54.75	0.81
Columbia HCA Healthcare Corp.	19.13	2.34
Comcast Corp.	77.0	1.82
Comerica Inc.	68.88	0.27
Compaq Computer Corp	30.63	-2.97
Computer Associates International Inc	35.56	1.79
Computer Sciences Corp	66.56	-0.65
Compuware Corp.	24.06	-4.34
Conagra Inc	30.5	0.83
Conseco Inc.	34.0	-0.37
Consolidated Edison Inc.	47.44	2.02
Consolidated Freightways Corp	15.63	2.04
Consolidated Natural Gas Company	54.69	1.15
Cooper Industries Inc.	45.81	0.82
Cooper Tire & Rubber	20.13	0.6
Coors (Adolph)	60.81	0.0
Corning Inc.	60.75	1.67
Costco Companies Inc.	90.5	-0.14
Countrywide Credit IND Inc.	40.66	-0.51
Crane Co.	25.44	-0.25
Crompton & Knowles Corp.	17.0	0.0
Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc.	27.25	0.0
CSX Corp.	38.06	0.66
Cummins Engine	40.88	0.77
Curtiss-Wright Corp	36.5	-0.17
CVS Corp.	52.44	3.2
Cyprus Amax Minerals Co.	11.38	1.11
DaimlerChrysler AG	94.56	7.46
Dallas Semiconductor Corp.	35.88	-1.03
Dana Corp.	37.63	0.33
Data General Corp	11.38	-4.21
Dayton-Hudson Corp.	70.88	0.18
De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited/De Beers Centenary AG	16.31	-1.14
Deere & Co.	34.06	0.18
Dell Computer Corp.	41.88	-3.32
Delta Air Lines Inc.	60.5	-3.97
Deluxe Corp.	33.0	-0.94
Dial Corp. (New)	30.88	-1.4
Diebold Inc.	23.69	-1.3
Dillards Inc	23.44	0.0
Dollar General	33.5	0.0
Dominion Resources Inc/Va	39.19	0.48
Donnelley (R.R.) & Sons Co.	33.75	-0.55
Dover Corp.	35.56	1.79
Dow Chemical Company	99.44	-0.56
Disney (Walt)	34.75	0.72
Dow Jones & Co. Inc	47.25	-0.53
DOE Inc.	40.13	0.63
DTE Energy Company	41.81	1.06
Du Pont (E.I.) de Nemours	58.0	1.09
Duke Energy Corp.	59.13	3.73
Dun & Bradstreet Corp.	36.38	-1.02
Eastern Enterprises	40.31	1.74
Eastman Chemical Company	46.13	-1.99
Eastman Kodak Co.	66.63	1.52
Eaton Corp.	68.63	0.27
Ecolab Inc.	40.56	-1.37
Edison International	25.75	-0.48
EG&G Inc.	27.75	1.84
Egghead.Com Inc	14.56	-2.1
Egghead.Com Inc.	14.56	-2.1
Electronic Data Systems	47.81	0.79
EMC Corp-Mass	115.38	2.5
Emerson Electric Co.	60.06	0.1
Engelhard Corp.	18.25	3.18
Enron Corp.	70.75	1.07
Energy Corp.	28.44	0.66
Enzo Biochem Inc.	12.5	6.95
Equifax Inc	34.56	-2.12
Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson	25.94	8.64
Eaton Vance Corp.	21.13	7.64
Exide Corp.	12.56	2.03
Exxon Corp.	74.75	1.96
FDX Corporation	94.44	0.2
Federated Department Stores	38.5	-2.22
First Data Corp	40.25	0.0
First Union Corp	54.06	-1.14
F[illegible]st[illegible] Corporation	28.63	-1.29
Federal-Mogul Corp.	43.56	-3.19
Fedders Corp.	5.25	2.44
Fleet Financial Group Inc.	44.63	1.56
Fleetwood Enterprises	29.63	3.49
Fluor Corporation	30.06	0.21
Fannie MAE	72.88	-0.17
FMC Corp.	50.88	0.25
Florida Progress Corp.	40.44	1.41
Food Lion Inc.	9.84	5.0
Ford Motor Company	57.94	1.87
Fortune Brands Inc.	30.5	-0.61
Furniture Brands International Inc	23.94	-2.79
Foster Wheeler Corp.	12.5	2.04
FPL Group Inc.	53.5	3.01
Fruit Of The Loom Inc.	12.38	-2.94
Gannett Co. Inc.	62.75	-3.46
Gap Inc.	88.5	-1.44
Gateway 2000 Inc.	68.06	3.71
General Dynamics Corp.	60.44	1.47
General Electric Company	106.81	1.0
General Instrument Corp	34.0	0.37
Gencorp Inc.	19.13	1.66
General Mills Inc.	78.75	-0.63
General Motors Corp.	89.56	1.92
Genuine Parts Co.	30.44	1.04
Georgia-Pacific (Georgia-Pacific Group)		71.19
1.88		
Germany Fund	13.63	10.1
Gatx Corp.	35.69	0.88
Gillette Company	60.44	2.76
W.R. Grace & Company	12.63	0.5
Genrad Inc.	17.31	0.73
Gulf Canada Resources Limited	3.63	34.88
General Datacomm Inds Inc.	2.31	5.71
Glaxo Wellcome Plc	65.19	-0.19
Golden West Financial Corp.	99.75	-0.25
Goodrich (B.F.) Co.	36.13	1.4
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	52.13	2.84
Great Central Mines NL	2.75	-2.22
GPU Inc	39.94	0.63
Grainger (W.W.) Inc.	46.25	0.95
Great Atlantic & Pacific TEA Co.	31.13	1.22
Great Lakes Chemical Corp.	40.44	-0.77
GTE Corporation	62.5	2.35
Guidant Corp	67.56	2.17
Halliburton Co.	35.13	-3.6
Hanna (M.A.) Co.	11.31	0.56
Harcourt General Inc	46.56	-0.67
Harley-Davidson Inc.	58.94	-0.21
Harnischfeger Industries Inc.	6.75	-1.82
Harrah's Entertainment Inc.	18.5	5.71
Harris Corp.	29.69	-0.63
Hirsch International Corp	2.88	4.54
Harsco Corp.	26.56	0.0
Hartford Financial Services	53.94	-3.47
Hartmarx Corp.	4.44	0.0
Hasbro Inc.	41.75	1.83
HCR Manor Care	24.75	2.59
Health Care Property Investors Inc.	30.0	-1.24
Healthsouth Corp.	11.56	0.54
Hecla Mining Co.	3.25	-5.46
Heinz (H.J.) Co	51.38	0.73
Helix Technology Corp	17.63	3.68
Helmerich & Payne	19.94	-4.49
Helmerich & Payne	19.94	-4.49
Hercules Inc	27.56	2.8
Hercules Inc.	27.56	2.8
Hershey Foods Corp	61.0	0.83
Hershey Foods Corp.	61.0	0.83
Hewlett-Packard CO.	68.94	0.46
Hilton Hotels Corp.	15.19	0.63
Hollinger Inc.	11.0	0.0
Home Depot Inc.	65.44	0.77
Homestake Mining Company	9.25	0.0
Honeywell Inc.	73.81	-0.08
Hormel Foods Corp.	36.31	-1.52
Household International Inc.	44.88	-2.05
Reliant Energy Inc.	27.88	3.0
Humana Inc.	19.38	3.33
Illinois Tool Works	67.0	-1.02
Ilinova Corp.	23.0	0.0
Inco Ltd.	12.69	0.0
Independence Community Bank	14.81	1.28
Ingersoll-Rand Co.	52.44	1.57
Ryerson Tull Inc.	16.0	0.0
Intel Corp.	118.13	1.07
Intergraph Corp.	6.53	5.56
Interlake Corp.		..
International Paper Co.	41.38	-0.75
Interpublic Group Cos Inc.	77.63	1.3
Interpublic Group Cos Inc.	77.63	1.3
International Business Machines Corp	182.81	0.72
International Business Machines Corp.	182.81	0.72
International Flavors & Fragrances	40.13	0.0
International Multifoods Corp.	22.5	3.15
Jefferson-Pilot Corp.	73.38	1.73
Johnson & Johnson	88.88	1.57
Kaufman & Broad Home Corp.	23.19	1.92
Kellogg Co.	36.31	-0.51
Kerr-Mcgee Corp.	32.88	2.53
Keycorp	33.5	0.19
K-Tel International Inc.	9.13	-5.81
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	49.44	0.89
Kaiser Aluminum Corp.	4.88	2.63

	LAST	CHANGE*
King World Productions Inc.	24.94	-0.25
Kennametal Inc.	19.81	1.93
Kla-Tencor Corp.	56.19	-3.85
K Mart Corp	17.25	0.73
Knight Ridder Inc.	50.19	-0.12
Kroger Co.	64.38	5.0
Laidlaw Inc	6.38	-1.92
Leggett & Platt Inc.	21.31	-2.29
Leucadia National Corp.	31.25	0.0
Eli Lilly & Co	92.69	0.95
Limited Inc.	38.56	-0.8
Lincoln National Corp.	94.13	0.6
Linear Technology Corp.	47.44	-2.19
Litton Industries Inc.	58.38	1.19
LIZ Claiborne Inc.	33.0	-2.4
Lockheed Martin Corporation	37.88	0.66
Loews Corp	82.13	-0.15
Lone Star Industries	29.13	-1.06
Longs Drug Stores Inc.	33.44	0.19
Loral Space & Communications	18.38	7.03
Louisiana-Pacific Corp.	18.56	3.48
Lowe's Companies	65.25	0.58
LSI Logic Corp.	26.31	-0.71
Lubrizol Corp	21.69	5.79
Lucent Technologies Inc	106.31	-0.29
Madge Networks NV	3.44	1.85
Mallinckrodt Inc.	30.63	1.66
Marriott International Inc.	38.0	4.47
Marsh & McLennan Cos	78.0	-0.64
Masco Corp	26.25	1.45
Massmutual Corporate Invstrs	23.75	0.26
Mattel Inc.	23.88	-0.52
MAY Department Stores Co	60.19	1.37
Mbna Corp	25.44	0.99
Mcdermott International Inc.	25.63	5.4
Mcdonald's Corp	44.69	2.14
Mcgraw-Hill Companies Inc.	55.88	-0.89
Mckesson HBOC Inc	56.63	-3.21
Mead Corp.	28.94	-4.14
Medtronic Inc.	66.13	-5.82
Mellon Bank Corp.	71.81	0.79
Mentor Graphics Corp.	13.19	-6.22
Merck & Co. Inc.	82.56	-0.3
Meredith Corp	32.19	0.98
Merrill Lynch & Co.	88.44	1.95
Micron Technology Inc.	52.31	-4.45
Microsoft Corp.	161.44	0.04
Millipore Corp.	27.88	-0.22
Mine Safety Appliances Co.	61.5	-1.11
Minnesota Mining & MFG Co.	80.19	-0.39
Mitchell Energy & Development	13.5	-0.92
Mobil Corp	94.38	3.28
Molex Inc	29.13	0.87
Monarch Machine Tool Co.	7.13	-3.39
Monsanto Co.	48.94	4.12
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Company		101.94
2.9		
Morton International Inc.	36.56	0.52
Motorola Inc	68.56	-2.05
Murphy Oil Corp.	40.0	5.26
Nacco Industries	65.63	0.0
Nalco Chemical Co.	27.31	1.16
Nashua Corp.	12.06	0.0
National City Corp.	70.19	0.36
National Semiconductor Corp.	10.75	0.58
National Service Inds Inc.	30.38	0.0
National Westminster Bank Plc	144.0	4.73
Navistar International	40.25	-1.06
Netscape Communications Corp	84.63	3.12
New Century Energies Inc.	39.75	-2.0
New England Electric System	48.88	0.13
New York Times Co.	31.06	-1.19
Newell Company	46.0	-0.41
Newmont Mining Corp.	19.69	0.96
News Corporation Limited	7.0	0.0
Nextel Communications Inc.	31.75	0.99
Niagara Mohawk Power	14.75	0.43
Nicor Inc	38.25	0.16
Nike Inc	55.69	-2.3
NL Industries	9.69	1.31
Noble Affiliates Inc.	27.5	1.86
Nokia OYJ	149.56	-0.58
Nordstrom Inc	37.63	-1.79
Norfolk Southern Corp.	29.63	0.0
Northeast Utilities	14.94	-0.42
Northern States Power[illegible]	[illegible]	0.95
Northern T[illegible]		
North[illegible]		
N[illegible]		
Occidental Petroleu[illegible]		
OEA Inc.		
Ogden Corp.	27.06	2.61
Ohio Casualty Corp.	40.31	0.78
Olin Corp.	11.25	0.0
Omnicom Group	71.5	4.19
Oneok Inc.	28.75	2.22
Oracle Corporation	36.88	-2.8
Oryx Energy Co.	10.38	0.0
Oshkosh B'gosh Inc	19.25	-2.84
Overseas Shipholding Group	12.69	1.0
Owens-Illinois Inc.	25.69	3.53
Owens Corning	30.5	-0.41
Penney (J.C.) Co	39.38	4.13
P G & E Corp.	31.75	0.0
PP&L Resources Inc.	25.69	0.73
Paccar Inc.	43.44	-0.14
Pacificorp	17.56	0.0
Pall Corporation	17.06	1.49
Parametric Technology Corp.	19.19	-1.92
Parker Drilling Co.	3.0	-2.04
Parker Hannifin Corp.	37.19	0.65
Payless Shoesource Inc.	48.44	1.71
Peoples Energy Corp	35.0	1.63
Peoplesoft Inc.	18.13	-0.69
PEP Boys-Manny MOE & Jack	19.44	1.63
Pepsico Inc.	38.0	-0.16
Perkin-Elmer Corp	95.19	3.04
Pfizer Inc.	140.38	0.54
Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc.	56.0	2.52
Phelps Dodge Corp.	48.88	2.49
Philip Morris Companies Inc.	40.0	-0.78
Phillips Petroleum Co.	43.94	4.61
Phycor Inc.	5.5	7.97
Pioneer Hi-Bred International	24.69	11.9
Pitney Bowes Inc	64.5	-0.1
PNC Bank Corp.	57.5	1.1
Policy Management Systems CP	34.38	1.29
Polycom Inc.	16.63	-0.38
Potash Corp. Of Saskatchewan	55.25	-1.23
Potlatch Corp	34.69	-0.54
Potomac Electric Power	24.13	2.12
PPG Industries Inc.	52.06	-2.91
Procter & Gamble Co.	91.81	-0.41
Promus Hotel Corp.	35.44	2.35
Public Service Enterprise Group	38.13	0.0
Quaker Oats Co.	54.0	0.94
Qualcomm Inc.	80.38	0.94
Quanex Corp.	16.69	-0.74
Ralston-Ralston Purina Group	27.94	2.29
Rank Group Plc	8.0	-0.78
Raychem Corp	23.38	1.08
Raytheon Co.	52.5	0.72
Reebok International Ltd.	17.31	-3.48
Regions Financial Corp	38.22	0.08
Republic New York Corp.	47.0	1.48
Reynolds & Reynolds	18.38	2.44
Reynolds Metals Co.	44.25	2.76
Rite Aid Corp	37.0	-2.63
RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp.	30.06	0.21
Rockwell International Corp	45.0	1.41
Rohm & Haas Co.	32.0	2.61
Rowan Cos. Inc.	11.44	-1.08
Rowan Cos. Inc.	11.44	-1.08
Royal Dutch Petroleum Company	50.69	5.74
Rubbermaid Inc.	36.13	-0.34
Ruddick Corp.	18.56	0.34
Russell Corp.	20.0	3.23
Ryder System Inc.	26.94	-0.69
Safeco Corp.	41.31	-2.22
Safety-Kleen Corp	12.81	1.49
Sara Lee Corp.	26.44	-0.94
SBC Communications Inc.	53.06	2.66
Schering-Plough Corporation	57.13	1.44
Schlumberger Ltd.	57.19	-2.24
Schwab (Charles) Corp.	82.94	2.38
Scientific-Atlanta Inc	26.63	1.91
Scripps Co. E.W	44.0	5.87
Seagate Technology Inc	29.5	3.06
Seagram Co. Ltd	46.94	-0.66
Sears, Roebuck And Co.	46.19	2.84
Sempra Energy	20.5	0.0
Sensormatic Electronics Corp.	10.0	1.91
Sequent Computer Systems Inc.	9.63	0.65
Service Corporation International	14.94	0.84
Shared Medical Systems Corp.	55.5	12.83
Shell Transport & Trading Co.	39.0	5.76
Sherwin-Williams Co.	27.44	2.57
Shoney's Inc.	2.31	-2.63
Sigma-Aldrich	28.13	0.45
Silicon Graphics Inc.	14.88	-3.25
Skyline Corp	26.63	-1.29
SLM Holding Corp.	45.25	-0.41
Smith International Inc.	33.5	-1.47
Snap-On Inc.	30.38	1.04
Sonat Inc.	27.13	-1.36
Sony Corporation	96.44	0.98
Southdown Inc.	48.13	0.13
Southern Co.	24.25	0.52
Southwest Airlines	30.44	-1.42
Springs Industries Inc.	31.88	-0.39
Sprint Corp. (FON Group)	88.63	-0.14
Sprint Corp. (PCS Group)	36.88	-1.5
SPS Technologies Inc.	41.44	-0.3

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.3.99)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.2720	4.3410	—	—	4.3054
U.S. dollar	3.9819	4.0462	3.92	4.10	4.0130
EU euro	4.3417	4.4118	—	—	4.3712
German mark	2.2199	2.2558	2.19	2.25	2.2350
Pound sterling	6.4656	6.5699	6.36	6.66	6.5265
French franc	0.6619	0.6726	0.65	0.68	0.6664
Japanese yen (100)	3.3046	3.3580	3.25	3.40	3.3361
Dutch florin	1.9701	2.0019	1.95	2.03	1.9835
Swiss franc	2.7182	2.7621	2.68	2.80	2.7372
Swedish krona	0.4904	0.4984	0.48	0.51	0.4945
Norwegian krone	0.5101	0.5184	0.50	0.53	0.5143
Danish krone	0.5841	0.5936	0.57	0.60	0.5881
Finnish mark	0.7302	0.7420	0.72	0.75	0.7352
Canadian dollar	2.6119	2.6541	2.57	2.69	2.6344
Australian dollar	2.5265	2.5673	2.49	2.60	2.5505
S. African rand	0.6477	0.6582	0.58	0.66	0.6533
Belgian franc (10)	1.0762	1.0936	1.06	1.10	1.0836
Austrian sch. (10)	3.1552	3.2061	3.11	3.25	3.1766
Italian lira (1000)	2.2423	2.2785	2.21	2.31	2.2575
Jordanian dinar	5.5925	5.6828	5.35	5.84	5.6362
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.14	1.22	1.1751
Irish punt	5.5127	5.6017	5.43	5.68	5.5505
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6094	2.6515	2.57	2.69	2.6271

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

St. Paul Companies	33.19	-1.12
Standard Products Co	15.94	2.0
Stanley Works	25.0	-0.74
Staples Inc	32.44	0.97
State Street Corp.	89.0	5.4
Storage Technology Corp	31.69	-5.94
Summit Bancorp	40.25	0.63
Sun Microsystems Inc.	108.88	-1.97
Sunbeam Corporation	5.63	0.0
Sundstrand Corp	58.0	0.37
Sunoco Inc.	33.0	1.54
Suntrust Banks Inc.	69.06	0.18
Supervalu Inc.	23.0	-2.39
Symantec Corp.	15.75	-3.6
Sysco Corp.	27.69	1.61
TAB Products	5.13	0.0
Tandy Corp.	58.44	4.5
Tektronix Inc.	18.19	0.34
Tele-Communications-TCI Group	68.44	0.0
Telefonica SA	139.38	1.18
Telefonos de Mexico	64.81	-1.05
Tellabs Inc.	69.19	4.77
[illegible]-Inland Inc.	59.5	0.11
[illegible]ealthcare Corporation	19.13	-0.65
Tenneco Inc. (New)	30.38	0.21
Teradyne Inc.	55.25	-4.54
Tesoro Petroleum Corp.	9.06	0.69
Texaco Inc.	54.94	1.5
Texas Instruments Inc.	97.38	-4.53
Texas Utilities Co.	42.75	0.89
Textron Inc.	81.44	1.8
Disney (Walt)	34.75	0.72
Thermo Electron Corp.	14.38	1.77
Thomas & Betts Corp.	41.06	0.46
Time Warner Inc.	70.75	1.89
Times Mirror Company	56.56	0.33
Timken Co.	18.19	2.46
TJX Companies Inc.	33.25	-5.67
Torchmark Corp.	34.5	0.73
Tosco Corp.	22.0	0.86
Toys R US Inc.	17.81	2.52
Transamerica Corp.	73.19	0.95
Tribune Co.	67.19	-0.83
Triton Energy Ltd	6.81	4.81
TRW Inc.	48.38	-0.27
TWA Corp		..
Tyco International Ltd.	75.38	1.77
Tyler Corp/Del	5.88	2.17
U S Home Corp.	33.38	-0.74
U.S. Bancorp	35.5	1.79
UAL Corp.	64.94	-0.86
Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp	20.69	0.3
Unicom Corporation	35.75	0.35
Unilever N V	74.0	0.42
Unilever Plc	40.19	1.1
Union Camp Corp	65.25	0.0
Union Carbide Corp. Hldg Co	43.56	0.0
Union Pacific Corp.	51.5	1.98
Union Pacific Resources Group	9.56	-4.38
Union Planters Corp.	45.63	1.11
Unisys Corporation	31.0	-0.6
United Healthcare Corp.	53.63	2.51
United Technologies Corp.	127.56	1.24
Unocal Corp.	32.5	-1.89
Unum Corp.	48.0	0.52
US Airways Group Inc.	49.69	-1.12
US West Inc.	55.0	-1.35
USG Corp.	48.0	0.66
UST Inc.	28.63	0.66
USX-Marathon Group Inc.	23.44	-0.79
USX-U.S. Steel Group Inc.	23.63	0.53
Valero Energy Corp.	20.56	2.49
Varian Associates Inc.	36.25	0.0
Venator Group Inc.	4.44	-5.33
VF Corporation	47.88	-1.42
Viacom Inc	90.06	1.12
Viacom Inc	91.13	1.25
Vimrx Pharmaceuticals Inc.	1.19	0.0
Vishay Intertechnology Inc	14.44	6.45
Vulcan Materials Co.	45.81	-1.31
Wachovia Corp	88.88	1.14
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	95.06	1.6
Walgreen Co.	30.69	1.87
Warner-Lambert Co.	72.19	0.96
Washington Gas Light Co.	23.69	-0.53
Washington Post	544.44	-0.83
Waste Management Inc.	49.88	0.76
Watkins-Johnson Company	24.13	-2.03
Weis Markets Inc.	36.81	-0.17
Wells Fargo Company	39.44	1.38
Wendy's International Inc.	27.06	2.12
Westvaco Corp.	22.25	1.71
Weyerhaeuser Co.	54.25	-2.8
Whirlpool Corp.	45.38	-1.22
Whitman Corp.	17.69	-3.74
Williams Cos. Inc.	36.31	0.0
Winn-Dixie Stores Inc	41.69	0.76
Worthington Industries	12.81	5.67
Wrigley (WM.) JR Co.	91.31	2.1
Xerox Corp.	55.13	-2.22
Yahoo Inc.	179.0	3.1
Yellow Corporation	18.5	-0.67

LONDON

Allied Domecq Plc.	503.0	-0.5
Allied Zurich Plc	896.5	-1.21
Barclays Plc.	1893.0	4.36
British American Tobacco Plc	547.5	-0.36
British Telecom Plc	1055.5	-0.52
Bass Plc	954.0	1.38
Boots Co. Plc	937.5	-2.29
British Airways Plc	446.25	2.12
CGU Plc	939.5	1.35
Diageo Plc	719.0	-0.35
General Electric Company Plc	581.5	2.36
Glaxo Wellcome Plc	2004.0	0.4
Halifax Plc	789.0	1.25
HSBC Holdings Plc	1910.0	0.16
Imperial Chemical Industries Plc	518.5	1.97
Land Securities Plc	875.0	0.06
Lloyds TSB Group Plc	980.0	4.25
Lucasvarity Plc	286.5	0.44
Marks & Spencer Plc	381.75	-2.55
National Westminster Bank Plc	1486.0	5.17
Prudential Corporation Plc	797.5	-2.03
Rentokil Initial Plc	371.75	-5.71

Reuters Group Plc.	975.0	0.78
Sainsbury (J) Plc	344.25	-0.22
Shell Transport & Trading Co.	396.75	9.3
Tyco International Ltd.	4450.0	0.0
Unilever Plc	600.5	-1.8
Zeneca Group Plc	2448.0	-1.92

PARIS

Accor SA	231.1	3.17
Air Liquide	137.8	0.81
Alcatel SA	118.5	2.51
Compagnie de Saint Gobain	142.5	-3.0
Euro Disney SCA	1.23	1.65
Michelin (C.G.D.E.)	40.0	2.04
Moulinex	10.64	0.28
Paribas	101.5	18.09
Pernod-Ricard	54.0	-3.92
PSA Peugeot Citroen	131.0	1.16

FRANKFURT

[illegible] AG	33.7	1.81
DaimlerChrysler AG	80.3	0.38
Deutsche Lufthansa AG	19.2	1.64
Mannesmann AG	118.4	0.47
Metallgesellschaft AG	16.55	-1.19
Volkswagen AG	54.55	-0.18

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Israeli Shekel Fixings Cu	4.305	-0.125
Israeli Shekel Spot	3.99	-0.025
Gbp-Ils X-rate	0.153	0.665
Dem-Ils X-rate	0.444	0.839
French Franc Spot	5.946	0.813
Japanese Yen Spot	119.195	0.52
Swiss Franc Spot	1.454	0.42
Canadian Dollar Spot	1.525	-0.082
Italian Lira Spot	1755.14	0.813
Jordanian Dinar Spot	0.712	—

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Dow Jones Indus. Avg.	9897.44	1.27
Dow Jones Trans. Avg.	3257.65	-0.96
Dow Jones Utilities Avg.	301.57	0.88
Dow Jones Comp. Avg	3009.54	0.73
Nyse Industrials Index.	759.94	0.94
Nyse Transportation Indx	488.82	0.32
Nyse Composite Index	611.67	0.86
S&p 100 Index	649.85	0.85
S&p 500 Index	1287.68	0.84
Tel Aviv 25 Index	347.86	1.94

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Ftse 100 Index	6335.7	1.5
Nikkei 225 Index	15502.1	0.1
Sing: Ses All Index	391.9	-0.5
Hang Seng Stock Index	10662.8	-0.8
Tel Aviv 25 Index	347.9	1.9
Cac 40 Index	4184.4	0.5
Dax Index (Xetra)	4785.4	1.2
Spain Ma Madrid Index	904.4	2.2
Swiss Market Index New	7322.6	1.6
Asx All Ordinaries Indx	2950.5	0.7
Milan Mib30 Index	37111.0	0.7
Bloomberg Commodity Index Gl	74.8	0.9

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

British Pound Spot	1.636	0.646
Bp Currency Glbx Jun99	163.460	..
German Mark Spot	1.773	0.813
D-Mrk Curr Glbx Jun99	56.670	—
Swiss Franc Spot	1.454	0.420
Sfr Curr Fut Glbx Jun99	69.430	—
Japanese Yen Spot	119.195	0.520
Jap Yen Cur Fut Glb Jun99	84.910	..
Canadian Dollar Spot	1.525	-0.082
CS Currency Fut Mar99	65.600	-0.122
Australian Dollar Spot	0.638	0.133
AS Curr Fut Glbx Jun99	63.540	-0.329
French Franc Spot	5.946	0.813
Italian Lira Spot	1755.140	0.819
Dutch Guilder Spot	1.998	0.813
Austrian Schilling Spot	12.473	0.813
S. African Rand Spot	6.141	0.069
Usd-Eur X-rate	1.103	-0.807

US COMMODITIES

Cocoa Future Mar99	1202.0	.42
Coffee 'C' Future Mar99	105.25	1.05
Wheat Future(Cbt) Mar99	269.0	1.23
Soybean Future Mar99	472.0	.53
Orange Juice Futr May99	83.3	-.8
Crude Oil Futr Apr99	14.32	-2.52
Us Long Bond(Cbt) Mar99	121.44	.03
S&p 500 Future Mar99	1303.0	1.09

LONDON COMMODITIES

Cocoa No. 7 (Lif) Mar99	828.	-3.1
Coffee Robusta($) May99	1730.	-0.1
White Sugar (Lif) May99	210.5	-0.3
Brent Crude Futr Apr99	12.2	-2.2

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Silver Spot $/oz	5.36	1.33

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Gold 100 Oz Futr Feb99	287.6	0.47
Silver Future Mar99	5.26	1.43
Platinum Future Apr99	369.5	0.19
Palladium Future Mar99	347.0	0.79
Copper Future Mar99	62.45	-0.32

LONDON METAL FIXES

Gold Fixes	Lo	293.8	0.79
Gold Fixes	Lo	294.0	0.75
Silver	Lo	5.28	0.86

(Source Bloomberg)

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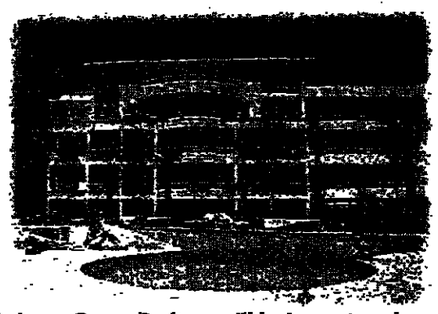
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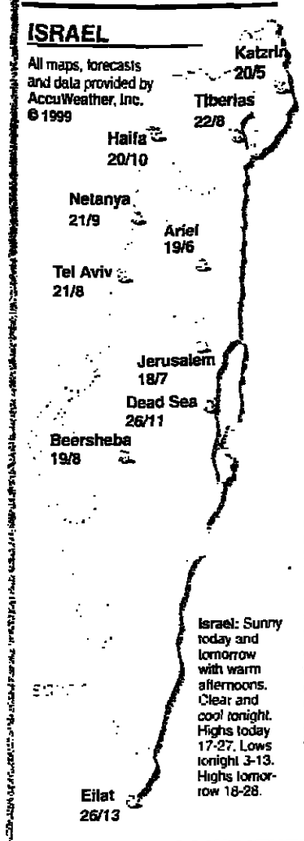
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Israel: Sunny today and tomorrow with warm afternoons. Clear and cool tonight. Highs today 17-27. Lows tonight 3-13. Highs tomorrow 18-28.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Ariel	19/66	6/43/s	20/68	6/43/s
Beersheba	19/66	8/46/s	21/70	9/48/s
Dead Sea	26/79	11/52/s	27/80	13/55/s
Eilat	26/79	13/55/s	27/80	14/57/s
Haifa	20/68	10/50/s	20/68	10/50/s
Jerusalem	18/64	7/44/s	19/66	7/44/s
Katzrin	20/68	5/41/s	21/70	5/41/s
Netanya	21/70	9/48/s	21/70	9/48/s
Tel Aviv	21/70	8/46/s	22/71	8/48/s
Tiberias	22/71	6/46/s	24/75	8/46/s

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

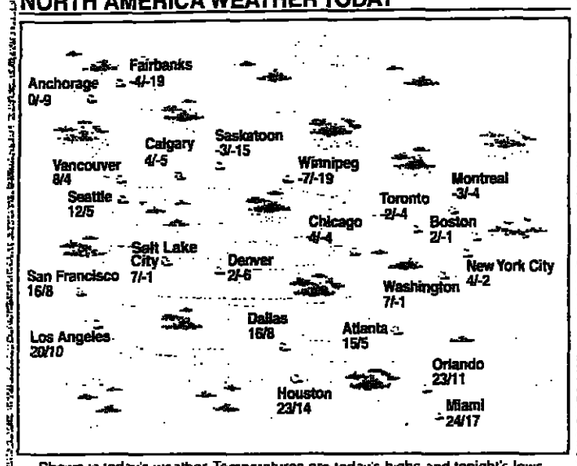
City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Amsterdam	12/53	11/52/r	14/57	9/48/r
Beijing	15/59	9/48/sh	18/64	10/50/pc
Berlin	6/43	0/32/pc	11/52	8/46/c
Brussels	15/59	11/52/sh	13/55	9/48/sh
Cairo	22/71	9/48/s	24/75	10/50/s
Chicago	4/39	-4/25/s	3/37	-4/25/sn
Frankfurt	7/44	-1/31/pc	9/48	3/37/c
Hong Kong	22/71	19/66/c	24/75	20/68/pc
Johannesburg	31/88	18/64/pc	29/84	16/61/pc
London	14/57	9/48/c	11/52	6/43/sh
Los Angeles	20/68	10/50/s	22/71	10/50/pc
Madrid	17/62	6/43/pc	17/62	4/39/sh
Mexico City	29/84	9/48/s	25/77	9/48/pc
Montreal	-3/27	-4/25/sn	3/37	-4/25/pc
Moscow	-1/31	-6/22/sn	-3/27	-9/15/sn
New York	4/39	-2/29/pc	6/43	-1/31/pc
Paris	15/59	10/50/pc	12/53	8/46/c
Prague	8/46	2/35/pc	11/52	4/39/c
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	24/75/sh	29/84	24/75/c
Rome	17/62	8/46/pc	19/66	10/50/s
Sydney	25/77	19/66/pc	27/80	20/68/pc
Tokyo	7/44	2/35/pc	9/48	6/43/s
Toronto	-2/29	-4/25/pc	3/37	-2/29/pc
Vienna	9/48	2/35/pc	13/55	8/46/c
Warsaw	1/34	-5/24/sf	4/39	-1/31/pc
Washington	7/44	-1/31/s	10/50	1/34/s
Zurich	14/57	8/46/c	17/62	8/46/s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

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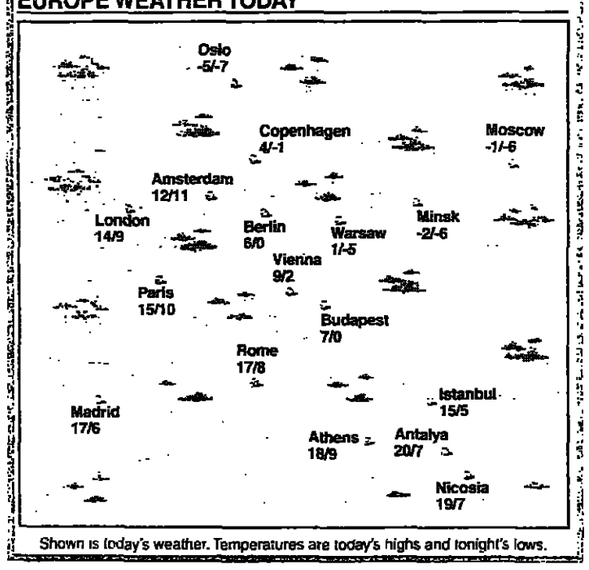
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Mar 17	Mar 24	Apr 1	Apr 9

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$100	$7,743

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Six IOC members face ax

LONDON (Reuters) – Six members face expulsion from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) next week because of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal.

The IOC is expected to add one name to the five who have already been suspended pending the vote to ban them.

The quintet who could be kicked out at a Lausanne meeting on March 17 and 18 are: Mali's Lamine Keita, Ecuador's Agustin Arroyo, Sudan's Zein El Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir, Chile's Sergio Santander Fantini and Congo's Jean-Claude Ganga.

Their expulsions were recommended by the IOC's executive board in January after an internal investigation.

IOC officials were not prepared to confirm yesterday that another member faced the axe following the investigation into the recent Salt Lake City ethics committee report.

But sporting sources expected an IOC ad-hoc committee investigating the scandal to forward one more name to the executive board which opens its meeting on Monday.

Four other members have quit over the biggest bribery scandal to hit the movement – Kenya's Charles Mukora, Finn Pirjo Haggman, Swaziland's David Sibandze and Libya's Bashir Mohamed Attarabulsi.

With just a few days remaining before what is expected to be one of the most emotional IOC sessions in Olympic history, no other resignations had been received at the IOC yesterday, Olympic officials said.

It now appears that the members are going to fight to stay on.

They are accused of receiving gifts or services worth more than the allowed value of $150 from Salt Lake before the US city won a vote in 1995 to stage the 2002 Winter Games.



A dejected Pete Sampras laments another missed opportunity against Felix Mantilla on Wednesday. (AP)

Lackluster Sampras stunned by Mantilla at Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, Ca. (Reuters) – Pete Sampras committed an unthinkable 54 unforced errors on Wednesday and is in danger of losing his No. 1 tennis ranking this week after being bounced from the Champions Cup in the second round by Spaniard Felix Mantilla.

On a cool, windswept night, the top seed struggled with both the mental and physical aspects of his game before falling 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3.

"I was lacking a little confidence. I didn't feel right all night," admitted Sampras, who has played only six matches this year.

"It was cold and the ball was heavy. I struggled and just didn't play well. I couldn't get my game going.

"It's back to the drawing board," said Sampras, who must have felt as if he had been transported to the slow clay courts of Roland Garros as he seemed content retrieving the Spaniard's heavy topspin blasts from the baseline in the first set instead of seizing control of the points.

Sampras was unable to unleash any kind of effective chip-and-charge attack in the two-hour match.

"I'm going to take this loss very hard. It's a wake-up call," he said.

Sampras's ouster left another Spaniard, Carlos Moya, in position to seize the top ranking after the fourth seed repelled a strong challenge from former No. 1 Jim Courier to score a 7-6 (8-6), 6-4 victory.

At the start of the tournament, second-ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 3 Alex Corretja, Moya and fifth-ranked Patrick Rafter all had a chance to unseat the suddenly vulnerable Sampras this week.

Kafelnikov and Rafter lost their opening matches Tuesday.

Corretja, up a set and a break Wednesday, blew a 4-1 lead in the second set against Australian Mark Philippoussis and eventually fell 4-6 7-5 6-2.

Three-time Wimbledon runner-up Goran Ivanisevic, the 14th seed, also was bitten by the upset bug. He was ousted by 18-year-old Belgian Xavier Malisse 7-6 (11-9), 6-3.

Playing in only his second event this year, sixth seed and defending champion Marcelo Rios, who has been nursing a back injury, was impressive in taking apart France's Cedric Pioline 7-6 6-1.

SPORTS *in brief*

Eyal Ran wins in Kyoto

Eyal Ran won his quarter-final match in a $25,000 tennis tournament in Kyoto, Japan yesterday, overcoming Li-Yun Taik from Korea. The score was 6-3, 6-4.

At the $15,000 international tournament at Yad Eliahu, Eyal Erlich and Nir Welgreen have reached the semi-final and will face each other today at 10.30 a.m.

Erlich beat Jan Ralf Brandt from Germany 6-1, 6-4 and Welgreen defeated Alexander Shvec from Belarus 7-5, 6-1.

Harel Levy and Ofer Sela succumbed in their quarter-final matches yesterday.

Michael Kogan and Ofer Sela will play in today's doubles final.

Ahead of the Davis Cup away tie against Finland from April 2-4, six members of the national squad will travel to France to sharpen their indoor skills in a tournament which begins on March 22.

The six are Harel Levy, Amir Hadad, Eyal Erlich, Noam Behr, Eyal Ran and Ofer Sela. Lior Mor is competing in a satellite circuit in Greece. *Heather Chait*

World Cup 2002 draw set for Tokyo

ZURICH (Reuters) – The qualifying round draw for the 2002 World Cup finals will be held in Tokyo on December 7, FIFA said yesterday.

The organizing committee for the World Cup, being staged jointly by South Korea and Japan, also announced that qualifying matches will take place between March 1, 2000 and November 11, 2001.

FIFA also announced the formation of special sub committees to deal in the areas of finance and logistics, ticketing, security, stadia and match schedules.

Soccer's world governing body has also ordered the ticketing sub-committee to make a "completely revised ticketing strategy" with FIFA taking a bigger role in the ticketing procedure.

The move is an attempt to avoid the scandal and chaos that surrounded the alloting and sale of tickets during last year's World Cup in France.

Villa sign Stone for almost £5.5 million

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) – Aston Villa have signed former England midfielder Steve Stone from fellow English premier league club Nottingham Forest, the clubs announced yesterday.

Villa paid £5.5 million for the strong-running Stone, who signed a 4½ year contract with an option for a further year.

The 27-year-old player, who has spent his entire career at Forest, won nine England caps but has been hard hit by injuries during the last two seasons.

He will make his debut in tomorrow's premier league game at Tottenham Hotspur – where he was sent off earlier in the season playing for Forest.

Torre leaves Yankees for cancer treatment

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) – New York Yankees manager Joe Torre left the major league baseball champions Wednesday to be treated for prostate cancer.

Torre, 58, discovered he had the cancer from a test the Yankees required at spring training. It is believed doctors caught the disease in its early stages.

"I feel fine, and I am looking forward to taking care of this problem and getting back to work," said Torre, who spent the day at his spring home in Tampa.

It was not immediately clear how long he will be away from the baseball team, what his course of treatment will be or where he will be treated.

The Yankees will rotate managers while Torre is out.

Penguins beat Hurricanes, Senators rout Rangers

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) – Kip Miller scored with 2:11 left in overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied from a two-goal, third-period deficit to beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-2 Wednesday night.

Pittsburgh snapped a season-high, six-game winless streak.

Miller scored his 17th of the season as Hurricanes goaltender Arturs Irbe was trying to cover up the puck in the crease.

Senators 3, Rangers 0

Damian Rhodes stopped 29 shots as visiting Ottawa handed the playoff-hopeful Rangers their first loss in seven games since Wayne Gretzky was sidelined.

Alexei Yashin had two goals and Lance Pitlick also scored for the Eastern Conference-leading Senators.

Stars 7, Oilers 4

Joe Nieuwendyk had two goals and an assist and Mike Modano scored twice as the Stars continued their home dominance of Edmonton.

Nieuwendyk, Guy Carbonneau and Grant Marshall scored first-period goals over a span of 3:08 to get the Stars off to a fast start. Dallas then scored goals on its first four shots of the second period against Edmonton backup goalie Mikhail Shtalenkov.

Blackhawks 5, Predators 2

Tony Amonte reached 30 goals for the fourth straight season and Josef Marha swatted in a rebound with 15 minutes left in the game to snap a 2-2 tie.

Rookie Jean-Pierre Dumont, Alex Zhamnov and Chad Kilger also scored for host Chicago, which extended its unbeaten streak to three games (2-0-1) despite blowing a 2-0 lead.

Canucks 4, Mighty Ducks 4

Harry York scored with 48 seconds left, capping the Vancouver Canucks' rally from a three-goal, third-period deficit for their 4-4 tie with the hosting Mighty Ducks.

Pittsburgh 0 0 2 1–3
Carolina 0 2 0 0–2
First Period–None. Second Period–1, Carolina, Kapanen 20 (Malik, Francis), 3:47. 2, Carolina, Kapanen 21 (Gelinas, Wesley), 6:08. Third Period–3, Pittsburgh, Hrdina 10 (Slegr), 8:26. 4, Pittsburgh, Straka 32 (Lang, Titov), 15:18. Overtime–5, Pittsburgh, Miller 17 (Jagr, Slegr), 2:49. Shots on goal–Pittsburgh 4-7-12-2–25, Carolina 8-6-7-0–21. Power-play Opportunities–Pittsburgh 0 of 1; Carolina 0 of 3. Goalies–Pittsburgh, Skudra 13-7-5 (21 shots-19 saves). Carolina, Irbe 23-15-10 (25-22).

Nashville 0 1 1–2
Chicago 0 2 3–5
First Period–None. Second Period–1, Chicago, Amonte 30 (Chelios, Zhamnov), 2:03. 2, Chicago, Dumont 3 (Daze, Marha), 4:03. 3, Nashville, Bordeleau 11 (Slaney), 16:40. Third Period–4, Nashville, Fitzgerald 11 (Vopat, Bordeleau), 1:23. 5, Chicago, Marha 2 (Daze), 5:00. 6, Chicago, Zhamnov 13 (Olczyk, Gamour), 13:49 (pp). 7, Chicago, Kilger 13 (Zhamnov, Thibault), 16:40 (en). Shots on goal–Nashville 2-10-8–21. Chicago 14-10-14–38. Power-play Opportunities–Nashville 0 of 1; Chicago 1 of 4. Goalies–Nashville, Dunham 13-18-3 (37 shots-33 saves). Chicago, Thibault 16-27-6 (21-19).

Ottawa 1 1 1–3
New York Rangers 0 0 0–0
First Period–1, Ottawa, Yashin 36 (Salo, Daskeli), 5:18 (pp). Second Period–2, Ottawa, Pitlick 3 (Bonk, Hossa), 9:18. Third Period–3, Ottawa, Yashin 37, 19:45 (en). Shots on goal–Ottawa 15-11-7–33, New York 6-12-11–29. Power-play Opportunities–Ottawa 1 of 5; New York 0 of 4. Goalies–Ottawa, Rhodes 19-11-3 (29 shots-29 saves). New York, Richter 23-24-6 (32-30).

Edmonton 0 2 2–4
Dallas 3 4 0–7
First Period–1, Dallas, Nieuwendyk 17 (Verbeek, Zubov), 9:15 (pp). 2, Dallas, Carbonneau 3 (Lehtinen, Hatcher), 10:27. 3, Dallas, Marshall 11 (Chambers, Nieuwendyk), 12:23. Second Period–4, Dallas, Verbeek 16 (Reid, Zubov), 5:58. 5, Dallas Nieuwendyk 18 (Chambers, Zubov), 10:28 (pp). 6, Edmonton, Laraque 3 (Lindgren, McSorley), 14:35. 7, Dallas, Modano 27 (Matvichuk, Lehtinen), 15:45. 8, Dallas, Modano 28, 17:00 (sh). 9, Edmonton, Marchant 10 (Hamrlik, Ninimaa), 17:21 (pp). Third Period–10, Edmonton, Lindgren 4 (Weight), 2:05. 11, Edmonton, Lindgren 5 (Guerin, Hamrlik), 18:51. Shots on goal–Edmonton 6-10-9–25, Dallas 7-5-9–21. Power-play Opportunities–Edmonton 1 of 8; Dallas 2 of 7. Goalies–Edmonton, Essensa 12-12-6 (6 shots-3 saves), Shtalenkov (12-23 first, 15-11). Dallas, Belfour 29-10-8 (25-21).

Vancouver 0 1 3 0–4
Anaheim 2 2 0 0–4
First Period–1, Anaheim, Drury 4 (McInnis), 8:20. 2, Anaheim, Kariya 28 (McInnis, Rucchin), 12:02 (pp). Second Period–3, Anaheim, Selanne 37 (Rucchin, Olausson), 1:43 (pp). 4, Vancouver, Auccin 17 (Naslund, Ohlund), 5:01 (pp). 5, Anaheim, Kariya 29 (Rucchin, Olausson), 7:15 (pp). Third Period–6, Vancouver, Holden 1 (Schaefer, Brashear), :47. 7, Vancouver, Naslund 33 (Ohlund), 5:58 (pp). 8, Vancouver, York 6 (Muckalt, Naslund), 12:11. Overtime–None. Shots on goal–Vancouver 12-9-8-0–28, Anaheim 15-16-11-3–45. Power-play Opportunities–Vancouver 2 of 6; Anaheim 3 of 5. Goalies–Vancouver, Weekes 0-1-1 (45 shots-41 saves). Anaheim, Hebert 26-21-8 (28-24).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	36	21	8	80	194	163
Philadelphia	30	19	16	76	194	152
Pittsburgh	33	22	9	75	199	177
N.Y. Rangers	28	29	8	64	181	180
N.Y. Islanders	19	38	9	47	154	199
Northeast Division						
Ottawa	38	18	8	84	194	134
Toronto	36	24	5	77	209	188
Buffalo	29	22	13	71	170	143
Boston	28	26	10	66	165	148
Montreal	25	31	9	59	155	174
Southeast Division						
Carolina	29	24	13	71	170	161
Florida	23	24	17	63	165	172
Washington	27	32	5	59	169	171
Tampa Bay	15	44	5	35	137	239

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	32	27	6	70	193	167
St. Louis	26	27	10	62	177	167
Nashville	22	31	6	50	153	213
Chicago	19	37	9	47	147	200
Northwest Division						
Colorado	33	24	8	74	180	161
Edmonton	25	30	10	60	182	175
Calgary	24	30	10	58	172	182
Vancouver	19	35	11	49	158	204
Pacific Division						
Dallas	41	12	10	92	188	129
Phoenix	31	23	10	72	159	153
Anaheim	30	25	10	70	176	158
San Jose	23	28	14	60	145	154
Los Angeles	24	36	5	53	149	174

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Rubin, Serena Williams reach Evert Cup semis after causing upsets

INDIAN WELLS Ca. (Reuters) – Unseeded Americans Chanda Rubin and Serena Williams played giant killers at tennis's Evert Cup on Wednesday, advancing to the semi-finals with straight-set upset wins.

The 26th-ranked Rubin claimed the biggest scalp on offer, picking off top seed and defending champion Martina Hingis 6-3 7-6 (7-2).

"I definitely would say that this is the best win of my career," said Rubin, flashing a broad smile.

"She's No. 1 in the world and the best player out there, week in and week out," Rubin, 23, said of the reigning Australian Open champion.

The 17-year-old Williams, whose star is definitely on the rise, took her current match winning streak to nine with a tough 7-5 7-6 (7-1) win over sixth seed Mary Pierce of France.

Venus's younger sister claimed her first career title in Paris just prior to this event and stunned second-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the second round here.

"I definitely think there's additional confidence within me because I feel that I can go the extra mile. I can go all the way," said the 20th-ranked Williams, who next faces 12th seed Sandrine Testud, a 6-1 6-3 conqueror of Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia.

Rubin earned a semifinal date with former world No. 1 Steffi Graf, who crushed Jana Novotna 6-2 6-0 for her 29th win in 33 career meetings with the Czech serve and volleyer.

Wembley sale a huge boost for England's 2006 campaign

LONDON (Reuters) England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup soccer finals was given a huge boost yesterday when the English Football Association effectively bought Wembley Stadium.

Wembley, built in 1923 and the most famous soccer stadium in the world, will now be demolished and re-built as an 80,000 capacity all-seater stadium.

The project, costing around £250 million will make Wembley the center-piece of England's bid to host the finals in seven years' time.

The stadium has been bought by the English Stadium National Trust, a subsidiary of the FA for £106 million and ends months of debate over the stadium's future.

Any further delay in the sale could have seriously jeopardized England's bid to stage the finals as the FA's detailed bid must be with FIFA, world soccer's governing body by July.

A decision on where the finals will take place will be taken by FIFA in March next year.

Wembley was the venue for the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1966 World Cup final and has been the home of the FA Cup Final since it was built in 1923. The last Cup Final is now likely to be played there in 2000.

Alec McGivan, the director of the English bid, said: "This is marvellous news. The new Wembley is the center-piece of England's bid. Now we can go ahead and make it the finest stadium in the world."

Sir Bobby Charlton, a member of England's 1966 World Cup winning team and now working for the 2006 bid said: "I have had many wonderful moments playing at Wembley, but I think this is the right time to look forward."

SA dominate first day v. New Zealand

CHRISTCHURCH (Reuters) – South Africa dominated the opening day of the second cricket Test against New Zealand by dismissing the home side for a meager 168 before closing on a dominant 54 without loss at Lancaster Park yesterday.

Dion Nash bravely chose to bat first under overcast skies but the top order contributed more than the South African bowlers to their demise with a succession of poor shots.

Recalled opener Bryan Young missed a rare straight delivery from Donald and was bowled for five in the third over and Roger Twose drove meekly at a wide ball from Pollock and edged it to first slip before scoring.

Opener Matthew Horne also flashed at a wide ball from Jacques Kallis to provide Gary Kirsten with a catch at second slip which ended a promising innings of 36 from 50 balls with seven boundaries.

By lunch, however, Nathan Astle and Gary Stead had rebuilt some of the early damage and honors were even with New Zealand on 104-3 with Astle having survived a "catch" at slip by Daryll Cullinan which was overruled by third umpire Steve Dunne after viewing television replays.

Donald broke the potentially decisive fourth wicket partnership of 52 and inspired a middle order collapse when Astle attempted to cut a fierce bouncer but could not control the shot and was caught at third man for a hard hitting 44 with eight boundaries.

Chris Harris (0) fended a bouncer from Shaun Pollock to short leg in the next over and Stead chased a wide ball in Donald's next over and departed for a resolute 27 from 51 balls on his Test debut.

Nash attempted to rebuild the innings once again during a 20-over stand with Adam Parore that produced just 23 runs but shortly before tea the New Zealand captain offered no shot to a wrongun from left arm spinner Paul Adams and fell lbw for 14 from 60 balls.

South African openers Herschelle Gibbs and Kirsten confirmed the docile nature of the pitch by surviving untroubled until the close with Gibbs unbeaten on 15 and Kirsten a commanding 35 that included six boundaries.

South Africa's day was only spoiled by the recurrence of Donald's stomach strain which forced him to leave the field prematurely – for the fourth successive Test.

New Zealand, too, lost the services of their main strike bowler when Simon Doull sprained his left ankle shortly before the close of play and limped uncomfortably from the field.

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Agony of defeat



Page 15a

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

TA derby highlights soccer action

By ORI LEWIS

The most evenly-matched Tel Aviv derby for years will entice a near-capacity crowd to the National Stadium, Ramat Gan tomorrow for the featured match in the National League this weekend.

Hapoel, the hosts, have moved the fixture from their home ground, Bloomfield, to Ramat Gan for fear of overcrowding.

The National Stadium is sure to be a cauldron as the early match in the double-header sees Zafririm Holon host Betar Jerusalem.

Hapoel Tel Aviv come to the derby fresh after an excellent 1-0 away win over Betar at Teddy Stadium last Saturday where they completely outplayed their hosts.

The morale-boosting win is certain to drive the Hapoel on to greater things as they vie for municipal pride against second-placed Maccabi, who are desperate to keep up with league leaders Hapoel Haifa.

The Haifaites take on Maccabi Herzliya in an away fixture and do not look like like they will lose to the lowly Herzliyans.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 15:00 unless stated):
Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Bnei Yehuda, Petah Tikva; Maccabi Jaffa v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Jaffa today 15:00; Maccabi Herzliya v. Hapoel Haifa, Herzliya 14:30; Zafririm Holon v. Betar Jerusalem., National Stadium; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, National Stadium 17:20; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Hapoel Kfar Sava, Teddy Stadium; Ironi Rishon Lezion v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Rishon; Maccabi Haifa v. Ironi Ashdod – postponed.

National League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Haifa	20	16	3	1	41	7	51
Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	13	3	4	50	20	42
Betar Jerusalem	20	12	3	5	49	22	39
Maccabi Haifa	20	12	3	5	42	17	39
Hapoel Petah Tikva	20	11	3	6	39	26	36
Hapoel Tel Aviv	20	10	6	4	30	19	36
Maccabi Petah Tikva	20	7	5	8	31	29	26
Hapoel Jerusalem	20	8	2	10	26	37	26
Zafririm Holon	20	6	7	7	25	19	25
Ironi Ashdod	20	6	6	8	27	35	24
Ironi Rishon Lezion	20	6	5	9	32	42	23
Maccabi Herzliya	20	6	4	10	22	30	22
Bnei Yehuda	20	6	3	11	27	40	21
Hapoel Kfar Sava	20	6	3	11	26	48	21
Hapoel Beit She'an	20	4	2	14	17	54	14
Maccabi Jaffa	20	1	2	17	10	49	5



Valparaiso University center Ivan Vujic (right) battles with University of Maryland guard Terrell Stokes for the ball during first-round action last night. (Reuters)

Maryland launches NCAA Tournament with big win

ORLANDO (Reuters) – Terence Morris and Laron Profit scored 18 points apiece as Maryland helped launch the NCAA Tournament with an 82-60 win last night over Valparaiso.

Steve Francis added 15 points and seven assists for the Terrapins (27-5), who are second-seeded in the South Region.

Zoran Viskovic led 15th-seed Valparaiso (23-9) with 14 points.

Maryland, making its sixth straight NCAA Tournament appearance, will play either seventh-seeded Louisville or 10th-seeded Creighton in the second round tomorrow.

Oklahoma State 69, Syracuse 61

In Indianapolis, Desmond Mason and Adrian Peterson scored 47 of Oklahoma State's first 57 points and then watched their supporting cast delivered down the stretch for a 69-61 victory against Syracuse in the other South regional bracket.

Joe Adkins drilled a huge 3-pointer with 2:23 to play after Syracuse forged a 57-57 tie, and Brian Montonati delivered baskets on consecutive possessions as the ninth-seeded Cowboys eliminated the eighth seeds.

Mason scored 28 points and Peterson added 21 for Oklahoma State. The Cowboys will next play either top-seeded Auburn or number 16 Winthrop.

Thomas had 21 points and Jason Hart added 17 for Syracuse.

Iowa 77, Alabama-Birmingham 64

In Denver, Iowa hit on 12 3-pointers as the fifth seeds of the West Region defeated Alabama-Birmingham 77-64.

Jess Settles led Iowa with 17 points and Dean Oliver fought off the flu and added 15. Fred Williams led 12th-seeded UAB with 26 points and 14 rebounds.

Coach Tom Davis, 60, who his leaving Iowa after this season, improved his record in first-round NCAA Tournament games to 11-0.

Iowa (19-9), one of seven Big Ten teams in the tournament, will play the winner of the game between fourth-seeded Arkansas and 13th-seeded Siena in the second round.

NCAA Basketball Tournament
First Round
TODAY

EAST REGIONAL
At Charlotte Coliseum
Tennessee (20-8) vs. Delaware (25-5).
Wisconsin (22-9) vs. Southwest Missouri State (20-10)
Duke (32-1) vs. Florida A&M (12-18).
College of Charleston (28-2) vs. Tulsa (22-9)
At The Fleet Center Boston
Cincinnati (26-5) vs. George Mason (19-10)
Temple (21-10) vs. Kent (23-6)
Miami (22-6) vs. Lafayette (22-7)
Texas (19-12) vs. Purdue (19-12)

MIDWEST REGIONAL
At The Bradley Center, Milwaukee
North Carolina Charlotte (22-10) vs. Rhode Island (20-12)
Arizona (22-5) vs. Oklahoma (20-10)
Villanova (21-10) vs. Mississippi (19-12)
At The Superdome, New Orleans
Utah (27-4) vs. Arkansas State (18-11)
Washington (17-11) vs. Miami, Ohio (22-7)
Kansas (22-9) vs. Evansville (23-9)
Kentucky (25-8) vs. New Mexico State (23-9)

YESTERDAY
SOUTH REGIONAL
At The RCA Dome, Indianapolis
Oklahoma State 69, Syracuse 61
Auburn (27-3) vs. Winthrop (21-7)
Ohio State (23-8) vs. Murray State (27-5)
UCLA (22-8) vs. Detroit (24-5)
At Orlando Arena
Maryland 82, Valparaiso 60
Louisville (19-10) vs. Creighton (21-8)
St. John's (25-8) vs. Samford (24-5)
Indiana (22-10) vs. George Washington (20-8)

WEST REGIONAL
At McNichols Arena, Denver
Iowa 77, Alabama-Birmingham 64
Arkansas (22-10) vs. Siena (25-5)
Missouri (20-8) vs. New Mexico (24-8)
Connecticut (28-2) vs. Texas-San Antonio (18-10)
At Key Arena, Seattle
Minnesota (17-10) vs. Gonzaga (25-6)
Stanford (25-6) vs. Alcorn State (23-6)
Florida (20-8) vs. Pennsylvania (21-5).
North Carolina (24-9) vs. Weber State (24-7)

Iverson leads 76ers past depleted Hornets

PHILADELPHIA (AP) – Allen Iverson had 25 points, seven assists and five steals as the 76ers beat a makeshift Charlotte team, 85-70 on Wednesday. The Hornets dressed only nine players.

Earlier in the day Charlotte traded Glen Rice, J.R. Reid and B.J. Armstrong to the Los Angeles Lakers for Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell, but neither player arrived in time for Wednesday's game. When Chuck Person was called for two technicals and ejected with 11:01 left in the game, the Hornets were down to just eight players.

Wizards 97, Pistons 87

Juwan Howard had 22 points and 11 rebounds as Washington won at home.

The Pistons scored just 12 points – six off dunks – in the second period as Washington took a 50-32 halftime lead Wednesday night. The Pistons didn't close the gap to single digits in the second half.

Grant Hill led Detroit with 16 points on 6-for-15 shooting as the Pistons, the leading 3-point shooting team in the NBA, went just 2-for-14 behind the arc.

Pacers 93, Nets 82

Rik Smits led host Indiana with 20 points and New Jersey went nearly eight minutes in the second half without a field goal as the Nets suffered their fifth straight loss and 11th setback in 12 games. Chris Mullin added 17 points for the Pacers.

Kendall Gill had a season-high 25 points to lead the Nets and Keith Van Horn had 20 despite getting into early foul trouble that kept him on the bench for 15 minutes of the first half.

Heat 88, Hawks 78

Tim Hardaway scored six of his 21 points during a decisive 16-2 run at the beginning of the third quarter to carry the Heat over visiting Atlanta for Miami's eighth consecutive win at home.

Alonzo Mourning dominated the center matchup with Dikembe Mutombo, scoring 16 points with 12 rebounds and five blocked shots. Mutombo and Atlanta teammate Mookie Blaylock scored four points apiece on a combined 2-of-19 from the field.

Chris Crawford led Atlanta with a career-high 14 points, while Steve Smith added 13.

Bucks 101, Sonics 97

In Milwaukee, Glenn Robinson scored 22 points as the Milwaukee Bucks gave coach George Karl victory over his former team, the Seattle SuperSonics.

The Bucks, winners of six straight, handed the Sonics their fifth consecutive loss in the only meeting between the teams this season.

The Bucks, who trailed by three at the half, turned a 56-51 third-quarter deficit into a 77-65 lead with 2:28 left in the third quarter, thanks to a 25-9 run punctuated by Robinson's 10 points, including a fastbreak dunk that capped the spurt.

Spurs 81, Magic 79

David Robinson hit two free throws in the final 18.5 seconds – his only points of the second half – to lift host San Antonio over the Orlando Magic.

It was a battle of futility as neither team scored in the final 4:47 – after Tim Duncan's three-point play tied the game at 79 – until Robinson's two free throws.

Robinson led the Spurs with 19 points as San Antonio (11-8) won its fifth straight game.

Penny Hardaway led the Magic with 22 points as Orlando (14-6) lost consecutive games for the first time this season.

Cavaliers 86, Suns 73

Shawn Kemp scored 18 points and Cedric Henderson got all 14 of his points in the second half as visiting Cleveland beat Phoenix.

Tom Gugliotta scored 16 points and Danny Manning 15 to lead the Suns, whose output was the second-lowest in franchise history. Phoenix scored 68 points against the Kansas City Kings in 1981, and twice scored 73 points in a game: in 1977 against New Jersey and again in 1998 against Utah.

Heat 88, Hawks 78

Tim Hardaway scored six of his 21 points during a decisive 16-2 run at the beginning of the third quarter which helped to carry the Heat over Atlanta 88-78 in Miami's eighth consecutive win at home.

Alonzo Mourning dominated the center matchup with Dikembe Mutombo, scoring 16 points with 12 rebounds and five blocked shots. Mutombo and Atlanta teammate Mookie Blaylock scored four points apiece on a combined 2-of-19 from the field.

Chris Crawford led Atlanta with a career-high 14 points, while Steve Smith added 13.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	14	5	.737	–
Orlando	14	6	.700	½
Philadelphia	11	8	.579	3
New York	10	8	.556	3½
Washington	8	10	.444	5½
Boston	7	9	.438	5½
New Jersey	3	15	.167	10½
Central Division				
Indiana	13	5	.722	–
Milwaukee	12	5	.706	½
Detroit	11	8	.579	2½
Atlanta	9	9	.500	4
Cleveland	8	9	.471	4½
Toronto	6	10	.375	6
Charlotte	5	12	.294	7½
Chicago	5	13	.278	8

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	14	4	.778	–
Minnesota	12	6	.667	2
Houston	11	8	.579	3½
San Antonio	11	8	.579	3½
Dallas	6	14	.300	9
Denver	5	14	.263	9½
Vancouver	4	15	.211	10½
Pacific Division				
Portland	15	3	.833	–
LA Lakers	15	6	.714	1½
Phoenix	10	9	.526	5½
Seattle	9	9	.500	6
Sacramento	9	10	.474	6½
Golden State	8	10	.444	7
LA Clippers	8	17	.320	10½

Wednesday's games: Philadelphia 85, Charlotte 70; Indiana 93, New Jersey 82; Washington 97, Detroit 87; Miami 88, Atlanta 78; Milwaukee 101, Seattle 97; San Antonio 81, Orlando 79; Cleveland 86, Phoenix 73; L.A. Lakers 94, L.A. Clippers 75.

Family, friends bid DiMaggio adieu

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – J.D. Reynolds, whose father was a teammate of Joe DiMaggio, stood behind a police barricade yesterday watching family and friends march into the baseball star's funeral.

Reynolds, son of former New York Yankees pitcher Allie Reynolds, flew from his home in Mustang, Oklahoma, to pay last respects to the Hall of Fame outfielder.

DiMaggio, who died Monday at his Florida home at age 84, was eulogized by his brother, Dom, at Sts. Peter & Paul Church in a private funeral Mass before about 50 family members and friends.

Six pallbearers, including DiMaggio's estranged son, Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr., carried the brown casket covered with white flowers into the church.

As a child, Reynolds hung out in the Yankees clubhouse where his father had a locker two down from DiMaggio's.

"My dad said DiMaggio was the greatest player he had ever seen," Reynolds said. "My dad said he had a great record because, when he was pitching, someone would hit one and Joe would run a mile to catch it."

About 100 people stood across the street from the church in Washington Square, where the American flag flew at half staff.

The church was where DiMaggio received his first communion and married his first wife. It was closed to the public as the Rev. Armand Oliveri led the service.

The 79-year-old priest who had known DiMaggio since the two grew up together said the service was a regular funeral Mass, including Psalm 23 as well as readings from both the Old and New Testaments.

"They said they wanted it to be family, and that was about it," Oliveri said. "Perhaps some close friends."

Church organist Lola Simi prepared "Amazing Grace" and Schubert's "Ave Maria" among five musical works requested by the DiMaggio family.

Joe Jr. was DiMaggio's only child. His mother was Dorothy Arnold, whom DiMaggio divorced in 1943. DiMaggio wed Marilyn Monroe in 1954 and they divorced later that year.

Fowler ends feud with Le Saux

LIVERPOOL (AP) – Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler moved yesterday to end his feud with Graeme Le Saux by accepting the Chelsea defender's apology and responding with one of his own.

The England teammates were involved in an altercation in the match between Liverpool and Chelsea at Stamford Bridge 12 days ago.

The referee missed the incident but television cameras showed Le Saux knocking Fowler to the ground with an elbow to the head.

The Football Association cited both players for misconduct after Le Saux claimed he was reacting to Fowler's taunts and gestures suggesting he was homosexual.

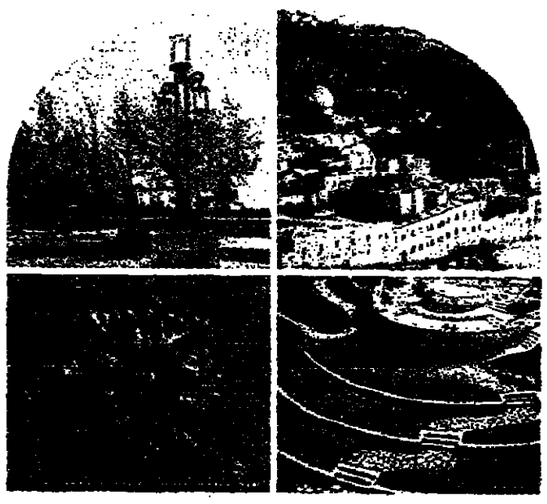
The *Daily Mirror* newspaper reported Wednesday that in his apology letter to Le Saux, to be delivered to Stamford Bridge, Fowler thanks Le Saux for his apology and says he regrets the whole incident.

The *Mirror* reports Fowler believes Le Saux misinterpreted his gestures.

Both players await an FA inquiry, with Le Saux facing a possible four-match ban for elbowing Fowler in the head and Fowler facing a censure.

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THE JERUSALEM POST
Friday
SECTION B
Friday, March 12, 1999



B3
The Left's dilemma



B5
War games

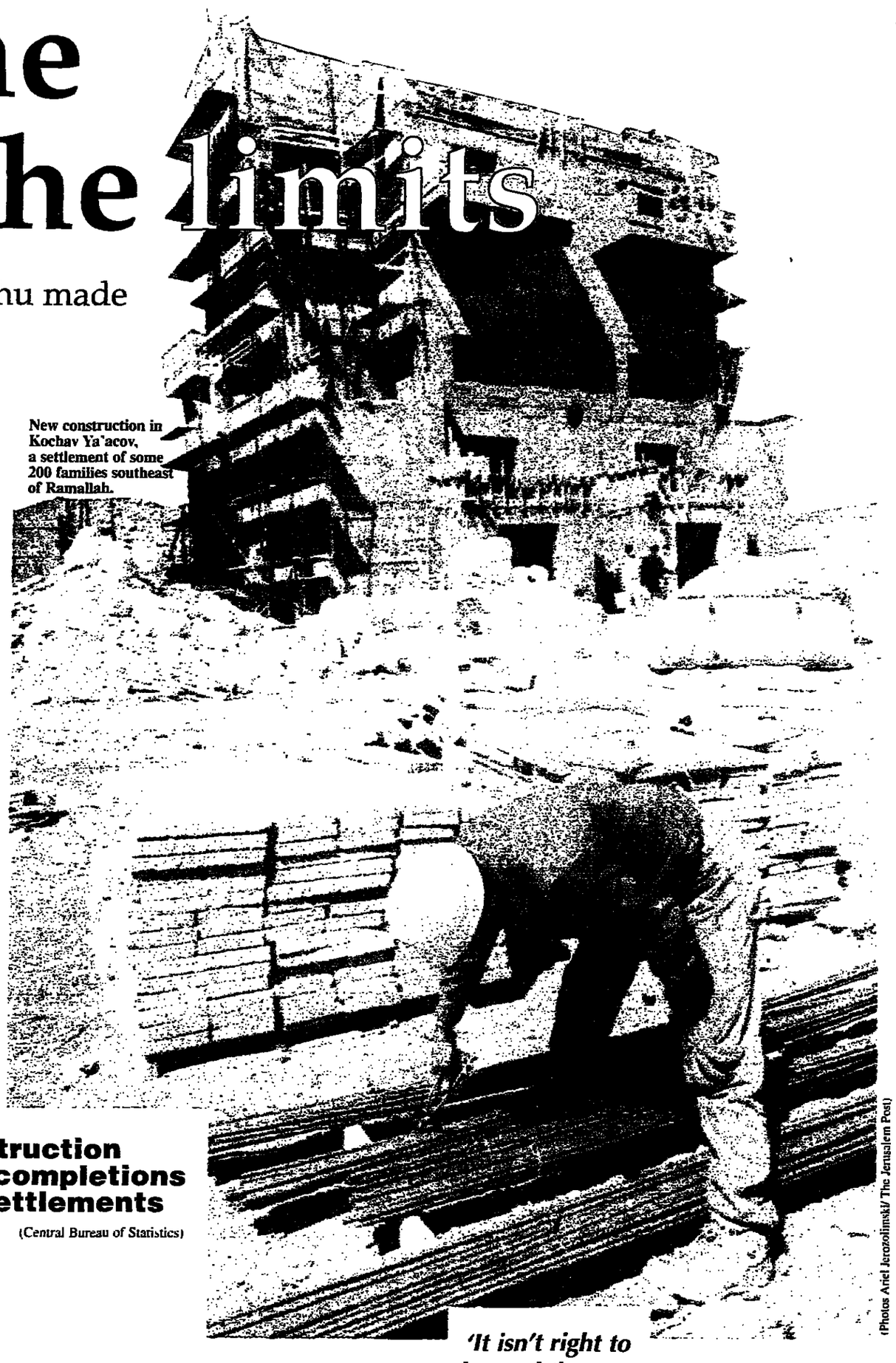


B16
Channel Surfing
A crumb of co-existence?

INDEX
Columns 8
Books 12
Art 14
Channel Surfing 16

Pushing the border to the limits

What kind of mark has Binyamin Netanyahu made in the settlements? That depends who you compare him to, writes **Herb Keinon**



New construction in Kochav Ya'acov, a settlement of some 200 families southeast of Ramallah.

The color purple motorists see driving through Judea and Samaria these days is not solely on the flowers in glorious bloom. The color is also on ubiquitous campaign posters for Deputy Housing and Construction Minister Meir Porush glued to the dozens of lampposts and concrete blocks that dot the roads.

"United Torah Judaism," read the posters under an eye-catching purple picture of Porush, "To fulfill the commandment of settling Eretz Yisrael."

There is good reason why Porush has taken United Torah Judaism's campaign beyond Mea She'arim and Bnei Brak, added to it the component of "settling Eretz Yisrael" and brought it into the pastoral hills of Judea and Samaria.

For it is in the territories that his ministry's handiwork is clearly apparent.

From Psagot to Elon Moreh, from Ma'aleh Adumim to Alfei Menashe, bulldozers and jackhammers are emitting a cacophony of construction that is sweet music to the ears of settlement leaders. Porush's ministry is carrying out government policy, assisting in the building of thousands of housing units throughout the territories.

"In this neighborhood," reads a sign at Kochav Ya'acov, a settlement of some 200 families southeast of Ramallah and about a 15-minute drive north of Jerusalem, "work is being done for the construction of 1,000 units." The neighborhood is slated for haredim.

Signs trumpeting new construction pepper the landscape in dozens of other settlements.

Fifty-six units in Psagot, 100 units in Ofra, a massive new industrial park called Sha'arei Binyamin just east of Kochav Ya'acov, and on and on and on.

"Building," says Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, who is also the deputy chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, "is going on everywhere." In his city alone, work is under way on some 3,700 units.

AS HAS been the case for the last 25 years, the settlements are a major campaign issue this year.

"Netanyahu gives in to haredim and extremist settlers," has been one of the centerpiece slogans of Ehud Barak's campaign. His message is simple: The more money that goes across the Green Line, the less money there is for education and social needs elsewhere in the country.

On the other side, the Likud will surely trot out a slogan reminding the settlers, and their supporters, that Netanyahu has greatly assisted the development of Jewish communities in the territories.

Meanwhile, parties to the right of Netanyahu, such as Moledet, Tekuma, Tsomet and Herut, are sure to complain that not only has Netanyahu not done enough for the settlements – by signing the Wye accords, he has actually placed them in danger.

The truth, says Eli Cohen, who as former defense minister Yitzhak Mordechai's adviser on settlements for the last two years has been a key player in the recent settlement drive, is that as far as building is concerned, "Bibi has been good for the settlements."

Cohen, a Ma'aleh Adumim resident, recently left the Defense Ministry to run in the Likud primaries, where he won the 22nd slot reserved for a representative from Judea and Samaria.



Eli Cohen: 'Bibi has been good for the settlements.'

Cohen's assessment that Netanyahu has been good for the physical development of the settlements is shared by nearly everyone – from Peace Now, to the umbrella settlement council, to the right-wing settlement leaders who were instrumental in toppling the government.

"The settlers say that no prime minister does enough for them," says Peace Now director Mossy Raz. "This is so they can ask for more. But Bibi has been very good to them."

Good, settlement leaders maintain, but not great. Ariel Sharon, who was the hyperactive housing minister under Yitzhak Shamir from mid-1990 to mid-1992, was great. From the settlers' vantage point, Sharon was tremendous, stupendous.

More than 14,000 housing units were started during his reign, and most were built by his ministry. That type of public building no longer exists, not in the settlements or – with just a few exceptions – anywhere else in the country.

"As far as strengthening settlements, Bibi was very good," says Cohen. "His only deficiency was that he did not engage in public building. If he had done that, we would have seen the same numbers under him that we saw under Sharon.

"If he had built like Sharon, Judea and Samaria would look a lot different than it does now."

Still, the Jewish population in the West Bank grew from some 142,000 in June 1996, to more than 180,000 now, while in the four years under Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres the population increased from 95,000 to 142,000.

While under Sharon the Housing Ministry initiated projects and bought the housing units from the contractors, now the Housing Ministry helps with infrastructure development and costs. But the units are owned and marketed by private contractors, with no government guarantee to buy them.

THERE are two measures by which to judge Netanyahu's relationship with the settlements. The first is to compare him to Shamir/Sharon, the model most settlement leaders thought they would be getting when he came to power in 1996; the second is to compare him with the Rabin/Peres governments from 1992 to 1996.

In regard to Rabin and Peres, who froze much settlement in the territories and took away many of the economic benefits people enjoyed there, "there is no comparison," says Yehudit Tayar, a spokeswoman for the settlement council.

The difference, according to Tayar, is not only one of substance – Netanyahu encourages building and investment, while Rabin discouraged it – but also one of style: The settlers have a near-open line of communication with the Netanyahu government, while they enjoyed no such luxury under Rabin/Peres.

Also, one of Netanyahu's first acts as prime minister was to reinstate the economic benefits to most of the settlements, benefits that had been taken away four years earlier by Rabin.

Under Netanyahu, settlers once again enjoy a 7 percent tax break, preferred mortgages, free preschool and benefits for businesses willing to set up in these "priority" areas.

Netanyahu's scorecard, in comparison with Shamir/Sharon's, is, from the settlers' standpoint, less than sterling. But Kashriel says it is unfair to compare Netanyahu to Shamir.

"It is not right to demand the same numbers from Netanyahu that we received from Shamir," he says. "The situation is different. The Americans became closer to the Arabs after the Gulf War, Oslo was signed, Arafat is in Gaza, territory has been given away, the world has changed. You can't turn the clock back."

Besides, soon after coming into office, Netanyahu went to Washington and pledged that he would only build in existing settlements to allow for natural growth, and would not start any new ones.

'It isn't right to demand the same numbers from Netanyahu that we received from Shamir. The world has changed. You can't turn the clock back'
– Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel

Shamir was not bound by any such pledge.

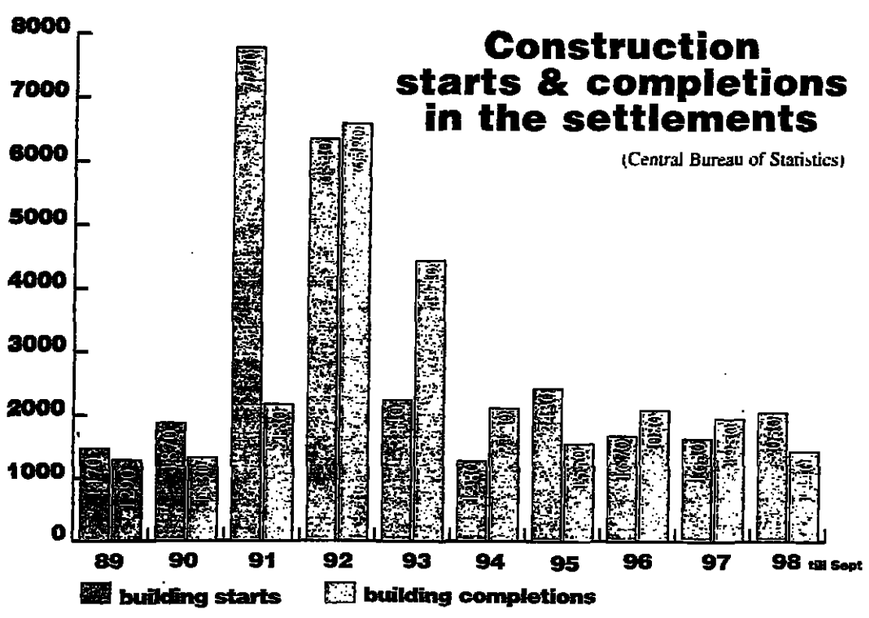
As far as sheer building starts goes, Netanyahu comes nowhere close to reaching what was started under Shamir/Sharon. For instance, in 1991 and 1992, Sharon started 14,100 units, as opposed to 3,680 units started from the beginning of 1997 until September 1998, housing for which Netanyahu is responsible (see graph).

But, boasts Cohen, the big push under the present government started after August 1998, when bureaucratic red tape, either intentionally or unintentionally placed in the way of receiving building permits, was removed.

Up until this time, complains Kiryat Arba lawyer Elyakim Ha'etzni, who represents the right wing of the settlement leadership, getting permits through Yitzhak Mordechai was like "spitting blood." But then, he admits, things were freed up.

How free? "Before I left the Defense Ministry, I approved everything that I could," Cohen says. "I did not leave anything undone. Building permits were given for tens of thousands of units. Everywhere we approved a little bit.

See Border, Page 4



Construction starts & completions in the settlements
(Central Bureau of Statistics)

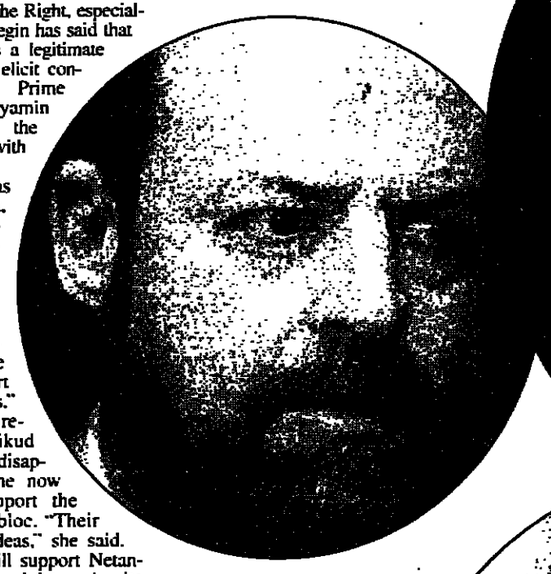
(Photos Ariel Jerozolimski/ The Jerusalem Post)

The Right stuff

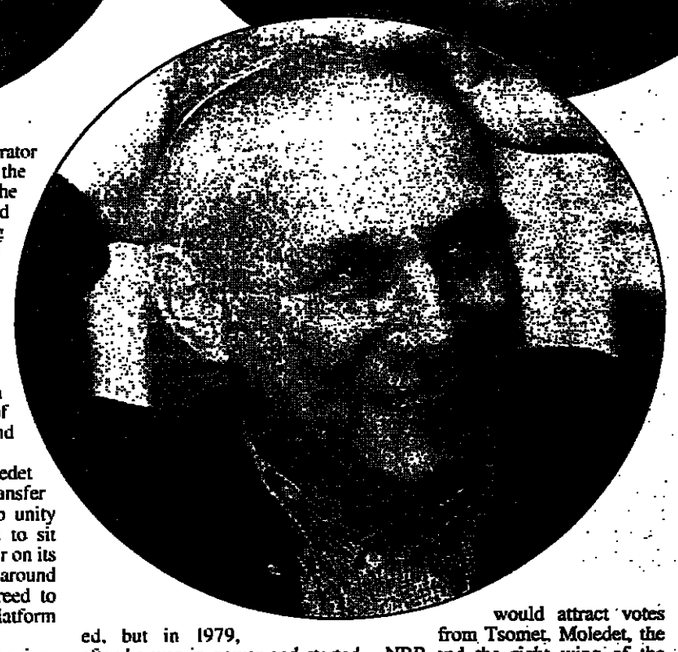
Nina Gilbert looks at the new political bloc forming on the Right and explores its chances in the upcoming elections











(Clockwise from top right) Rehavam Ze'evi, Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, Hanan Porat, Michael Kleiner, Uri Ariel
(Rehavam Ze'evi photo: David Rubinger; Uri Ariel: Isaac Harari; all others: Ariel Jerozolimski/ The Jerusalem Post)

The glue keeping the difficult, all-night talks between the leaders of the nationalistic camp from falling apart this week was the trauma of 1992.

That was the year that a fragmented Right lost nearly 70,000 votes when parties headed by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, Yitzhak Moda'i and Eliezer Mizrahi ran alongside Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet. The final result was that Tehiya, which for years had held high the flag of the Land of Israel, was wiped off the political map. The loss was seen as contributing to the rise of Yitzhak Rabin's Labor government.

Determined to ensure that the 1992 mistake remains an isolated historic event, the Right picked up efforts to unify this week after MKs Hanan Porat and Zvi Hendel bolted the National Religious Party for Tekuma, a religious settlers' party established recently by Beit El local council head Uri Ariel and settler activist Benny Katzover. One look at the playing field, with Tekuma, Moledet, Tsomet and the Herut party headed by ex-Likud MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin, was enough to spark the realization that a rerun of 1992 was a real danger.

Eager to get the sides to cooperate, Aharon Domb, chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, produced a series of surveys commissioned from the Geocartography Institute. According to Domb, the research indicated that none of the four parties, running alone, would cross the 1.5 percent threshold, expected to be some 50,000 votes in the upcoming elections.

On the other hand, Domb said the surveys predict that a unified bloc, excluding Tsomet, could capture as many as 10 Knesset seats. In any case, Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan is presently out of the right-wing loop after he started negotiations with the Likud, and may only be offered the possibility of joining later.

'If the small parties on the Right do not succeed in uniting, they will bear the historical responsibility for that inability'
– Hanan Porat

By midday yesterday, the leaders had agreed only on the ranking of a united front's top seven candidates, and were still squabbling over whose name would appear first on a joint list.

Geula Cohen, the former leader of Tehiya, warned that in order to avoid a repeat of 1992 the parties should take things one step further by getting Begin to withdraw his candidacy.

Indeed, the Begin candidacy remains one of the main sources of division among the Right, especially the settlers. Begin has said that his candidacy is a legitimate political tool to elicit concessions from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the peace process with the Palestinians.

However, as Cohen sees it, Begin "is making a big mistake. Netanyahu could be harmed in the first round by a few missing percentage points. We can't act smart with these things."

Cohen, who rejoined the Likud after her party disappeared, said she now planned to support the new right-wing bloc. "Their ideas are my ideas," she said. However, she will support Netanyahu for prime minister, despite the fact that he has moved ahead with the Oslo Accords, as the lesser of evils.

WITH her experience, Cohen could be an educated moderator for today's talks between the right-wing parties. Before the 1992 elections, concerned that the NRP's right-wing campaign message would hurt her party, Cohen read the writing on the wall and sought to merge Tehiya with Moledet. "We were close to going together at the time, but Moledet didn't want to give up the idea of transfer [the removal of Palestinians from Judea and Samaria]," Cohen said.

This time too, it is Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi's transfer mantra that has slowed up unity talks, since Begin refused to sit with a party that has transfer on its platform. As a way to get around the impasse, the sides agreed to formulate a new, joint platform that would be binding.

Asher Cohen, a political scientist at Bar-Ilan University, noted that Moledet could get wiped out if it resists joining the other right-wing parties. "Voters punish separation and don't want to waste votes," he said.

This is especially true here, he said, because there "are only small nuances in the ideologies of the parties." Transfer is not practical, and not really relevant to the voters, he said. What is more important to the voters is what unites the parties: No to Wye and Oslo.

OPPOSITION to peace accords was also what sparked the formation of Tehiya in October 1979 when secular Herut loyalists bonded with religious Gush Emunim activists against together against Menachem Begin's peace accords with Egypt.

Today there is a renewal of religious-secular union, this time around the Greater Land of Israel.

Ehud Sprinzak, a Hebrew University expert on radical politics, notes that hardliners did not bolt the Likud in 1996, because at the time they shared a common goal – to defeat Labor. "Once you are in power it is more difficult to keep it together," he said. "Those in power have to make compromises."

He noted that in 1977, everyone on the Right supported Begin. "It was a dream that the champion of the Land of Israel would be elected, but in 1979, after he was in power and started to behave like a leader and make concessions, then you got Tehiya."

THE groundwork for today's right-wing merge was laid in the aftermath of the Hebron Accord. MK Michael Kleiner, who is now Herut's No. 2, formed the Land of Israel Front to coordinate Knesset opposition to Netanyahu's continuation of the Oslo Accords.

Geula Cohen said that like her party, which fought against Camp David, the emerging right-wing merger "is fighting against Oslo, the legitimate child of Camp David.

"We fought against the uprooting of Yamit. Today they will fight, not against uprooting settlements, but against the issuing of a death sentence to the settlements."

However, the organizers of today's union have been quick to distance themselves from such comparisons, especially given the demise of Tehiya. Sprinzak said he believed the parties on the Right "would like to forget about Tehiya."

The party never did very well, he said, noting that at its peak Tehiya had only five seats in the Knesset. However, he said, there is "an expectation that under the leadership of Benny Begin the radical Right will do better."

Asher Cohen agreed, noting that there was much greater potential today for a united bloc since it would attract votes from Tsomet, Moledet, the NRP and the right wing of the Likud.

He did not rule out the bloc gaining 10 seats, while Sprinzak said he would be surprised if it did that well, adding that its success would ultimately depend on the nature of the NRP and Likud campaigns.

The right wing of the NRP could go over to the Herut-Tekuma-Moledet bloc, according to Asher Cohen, spurred by a belief that the party has moved to the Left. However, this is a misconception, he said. The NRP is still firmly a party on the Right, although perhaps less extreme than before.

Nevertheless, Porat and Hendel's departure jolted the NRP leadership. This week, Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yahalom went on a frenzied tour of what was dubbed the "hard core" of the Jewish settlement movement in Samaria.

Indeed, the NRP stands to lose the most from the bloc, especially due to the Tekuma element. Domb's survey gives the party around five mandates, compared with nine today.

ASHER Cohen agreed that "no doubt there will be damage to the NRP. The question is to what extent." However, he said that another misconception regarding the religious factor in the Right was that the departure of Hendel and Porat caused a split in religious Zionism.

"This sector has been divided for years," he said.

At the same time, he said, Porat was certainly a symbol, and not just another Greater Land of Israel leader. "There are very few MKs you can say actually take votes with them. However, there is no doubt that when Porat lost a realistic spot, thousands of voters certainly began to consider whether or not to vote NRP."

Sprinzak also believed any union that included Porat would attract a lot of votes. "Porat is not an ordinary politician. People greatly appreciate his integrity. They will believe he did it [left the NRP] in the name of an idea and not because of a seat in the Knesset."

Hendel said the two left the NRP because it had "deviated from its path." The aim, Hendel said, was to restore "national pride to the people of Israel" in the face of the "defeatist process with the PLO."

Porat added that there must be some people who stay strong and don't give up on the Land of Israel and the settlements. He also warned that if the small parties on the Right did not succeed in uniting, "they would bear the historical responsibility for that inability."

If the bloc is finalized and makes a respectable showing, it will no doubt be at the forefront of the fight against further territorial concessions to the Palestinians.

"They are going to get elected to the Knesset to stop territorial compromises," Sprinzak said. "In such a scenario, we can expect them to be in the streets."

Porat expected the united bloc to be a rallying point for hundreds of thousands of Israelis seeking to protect the Land of Israel.

"There is a great difference between Yamit and the situation now," he said, noting that Israel was facing final-status agreements on dividing Jerusalem and uprooting settlements. More importantly, he said, as opposed to Yamit, "we are talking about the heart of the homeland," where hundreds of thousands of people are living.

"How can we look at ourselves in the mirror and say that we did not do what we could to stop this?"



Geula Cohen at a 1981 rally for Tehiya, the Land of Israel party that was wiped off the political map in 1992. (IPPA)

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CLARIFICATION

By the Staff of Cafe Rimon, Jerusalem.

We would like to clarify a number of details with regard to last week's article about Cafe Rimon.

The person involved was a new employee who does not represent the spirit of the cafe or its staff. We, the employees denounce this act and want to emphasize that it is completely incongruent with the character of the cafe, its employees, its owner and, in particular, its customers.

We would like to point out that Cafe Rimon has a staff of over 120 employees and that the incident concerning this particular employee is highly irregular. The cafe has been in operation for many years and this incident is inconsistent with its excellent reputation.

Sincerely,
The Staff
Cafe Rimon

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Can Mordechai tip the scales?

'Only Mordechai can win big' trumpets the Center Party. Many left-wing voters are weighing that claim as they debate how to ensure Netanyahu's defeat. **Larry Derfner** reports



The Left has a problem. Its overriding goal in the coming elections is to defeat Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, but by backing leader Ehud Barak over Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai left-wingers may be paving the way for Netanyahu's reelection.

Convinced that Mordechai can beat Netanyahu and that Barak probably can't, some Labor and Meretz supporters – including, most recently, Meretz MK Amnon Rubinstein – have switched their support to the Center Party leader.

It isn't a full-blown shift, but it's the beginning of one. And Mordechai is building his campaign on it. "Only Mordechai can win big," is his central campaign slogan.

"This movement could rise or it could plummet," said Andrew Abir, a self-described card-carrying Labor Party member. If Mordechai pulls close to Barak on the eve of the May 17 election, Abir is likely to switch allegiance.

"Mordechai has to reach a critical mass of support, and then it will be a whole new ball game. Barak supporters will begin switching over very fast. But if Mordechai's strength remains at its current level, Barak voters will stay put," said Abir, 37, an economist from Maoz Zion, a Jerusalem suburb.

Public-opinion polls are fueling the move from Barak to Mordechai. The surveys consistently show Mordechai beating Netanyahu by about 10 percent in a runoff, while Barak more or less ties the incumbent. Yet the same polls also show Mordechai getting only about 20% of the first-round vote and failing to reach the June 1 runoff, while Netanyahu and Barak get about 35% each and face each other in the final election.

To the Left, these numbers hold the potential for a heartbreaking lost opportunity, and some are drawing the conclusion that it's time to get behind the guy who has the best chance to win.

But it's not just the polls that are pushing Barak supporters to Mordechai. It's also the belief that he can pull voters – mainly Mizrahi Jews (of North African and Asian origin) and Orthodox – away from Netanyahu, and that Barak can't.

"Just like I will do anything to keep Netanyahu from winning, there are people in the development towns and other places who will do anything to keep the Labor Party from winning," said Dr. Rafi Rabinovitz, 45, a medical engineer in Ra'anana who has always voted Labor but is now backing Mordechai.

The Labor Party is trying to put out this fire before it gets going. Avraham Burg, Labor's spin coordinator, as much as demanded that Mordechai quit the race and throw his support behind Barak. With Mordechai's 20% joining Barak's 35%, the Labor leader could knock Netanyahu out in the first round, Burg argued, saying it was only Mordechai's "ego" that was keeping him in the race.

Burg dismissed the idea that Mordechai could cut into Netanyahu's support. "Do you think a religious Jew is going to vote for Ronni Milo [no. 4 on the Center Party Knesset list]?" he asked. "And do you think a secular Jew is going to vote for somebody [Mordechai] who kisses Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's beard?"

Hebrew University political science professor Yitzhak Galnoor, a Meretz supporter, maintained that as long as Barak stays in the race, Mordechai can't win. "Mordechai is stuck at 20% [in the first-round polls]," Galnoor said.

He also challenged the widely held view that the Russian-immigrant vote is beyond Barak's grasp. "The Russians voted for Rabin in 1992, then for Netanyahu in 1996. So far they've shown that they vote against the incumbent," Galnoor said.

But Tel Aviv University sociology professor Yohanan Peres, a leading public-opinion pollster, said recent election history shows that neither Barak nor any other Labor Party candidate has much chance of winning.

"Starting with 1977, Labor has failed to gain a clear victory," he said, noting that the Likud would have won in 1992 if not for the split in the right-wing vote.

Furthermore, about two-thirds of the undecided vote always goes to the Right, so, Peres said, "When the polls show Barak and Netanyahu in a tie, you know already that Netanyahu really has a small lead."

Along with Labor Party politicians, many leftist political commentators have been saying that the Center and Labor must join forces – behind Barak, not Mordechai. Their argument is that Barak will never drop out of the race because, after all, he heads the country's oldest and largest party. The Center Party, the argument goes, is an ad-hoc group founded on the basis of public-opinion polls, with no ideological cohesion, no platform and no primaries, so it should respect its betters by backing Barak.

'If they [left-wingers] insist on voting for the best man, they will probably end up with the worst man'
– Opinion pollster Prof. Yohanan Peres

Peres, who also wants to see Netanyahu beaten, sees it differently. Barak should be the one to fold, he maintains, because his 35% plus Mordechai's 20% equals victory only if Mordechai is the candidate. "Everyone who votes for Barak will vote for Mordechai, but not everybody who votes for Mordechai will vote for Barak," he said, repeating the axiom that the Center Party leader attracts right-leaning voters who, given the choice between Barak and Netanyahu, would "come back home" and support the Likud prime minister.

RAMAT Aviv Gimmel may be the capital of Labor country. Interviews with shoppers and storekeepers in the Lev Aviv mall showed that Mordechai is picking up support not only from Barak's natural constituency, but also from Netanyahu's.

"I support the Likud and I voted for Netanyahu last time, but I'm going for Mordechai. He seems more balanced, more for unity. He represents something cleaner than Netanyahu or Barak," said Ilan Starkman, 38, owner of an exclusive shoe store who lives in north Tel Aviv. "There's no way I'd ever vote for Barak or Labor. Barak has no chance anyway. The Sephardim won't vote for the Alignment [Labor's previous name] even if David Levy is running with them."

Tali Kimche, 26, a Tel Aviv University biology student and Likud supporter, said she was "probably" going to vote for Mordechai. He projects more credibility than the others. I voted for Netanyahu, but I didn't see a lot of results from him. Barak? No chance. He's not credible, and he can't lead."

"Credibility" and "unity" were the terms that kept coming up in Mordechai's favor. On the debit side was the vagueness, if not total emptiness, of the Center Party's politics.

"I have no idea what the Center Party wants to do," said a 49-year-old kibbutz member who didn't want to be used.

Erez Cohen, 22, a political science student at Tel Aviv University and Meretz supporter who backs Barak, alluded to Mordechai's negotiations with Likud, Labor and Center by saying, "I see him as an opportunist." Noting that the separation of religion and state was the most important issue to him, Cohen added that he was put off by Mordechai's links to the haredim.

But a shopper in his seventies who didn't want to be identified said he was voting "Meretz and Mordechai. Why Mordechai? It seems he can get more support than Barak can."

Accompanying the man was Lucina Basan, 65, a north Tel Aviv resident who said, "I'm for Barak, but maybe I'll switch to Mordechai. He can attract Mizrahim, Shas voters. I'll wait and see." The 49-year-old kibbutz woman said she intended to stick with Barak for ideological reasons, but that she is realistic enough "to accept that Mordechai probably has a much better chance to win."

And Adam Amir, 36, a carpet salesman from Ashdod who voted for Shimon Peres in the last election, said he's backing Mordechai because "he has more credibility than Barak, more warmth. I liked Barak when he was the IDF's chief of general staff and when he first went into politics, but since then he doesn't seem [illegible]able. He plays too many [illegible]

"Barak seems like he's saying what his advisers tell him to say, not what he really means," continued Amir.

THE CENTER Party slogan boasts that "Only Mordechai can make peace that everyone will accept," Andrew Abir is swayed by that point.

"I think we'll reach an agreement with the Palestinians and the Syrians in the next four years, and I think Mordechai can probably sell such an agreement to the Israeli public better than Barak can," Abir said.

But the card-carrying Laborite would prefer Barak. "Barak is a better [illegible]er," he said. Not only that, [illegible] doesn't think much of Mordechai's performance in government. "He's spent the last 2 1/2 years basically twiddling his thumbs."

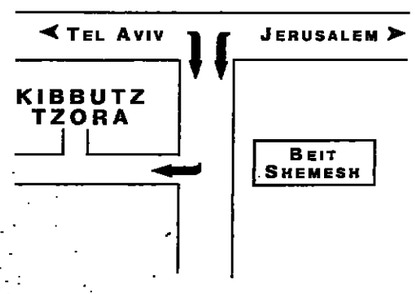
To Abir, however, these are minor considerations compared to the overarching necessity of dumping Netanyahu.

The Left has additional reservations about Mordechai. Beyond his close ties to Yosef and Shas, he was, after all, a Likudnik until a couple of months ago. On the Left, ideology often counts for much more than pragmatism.

"But if they insist on voting for the best man," Peres warned, "they will probably end up with the worst man."

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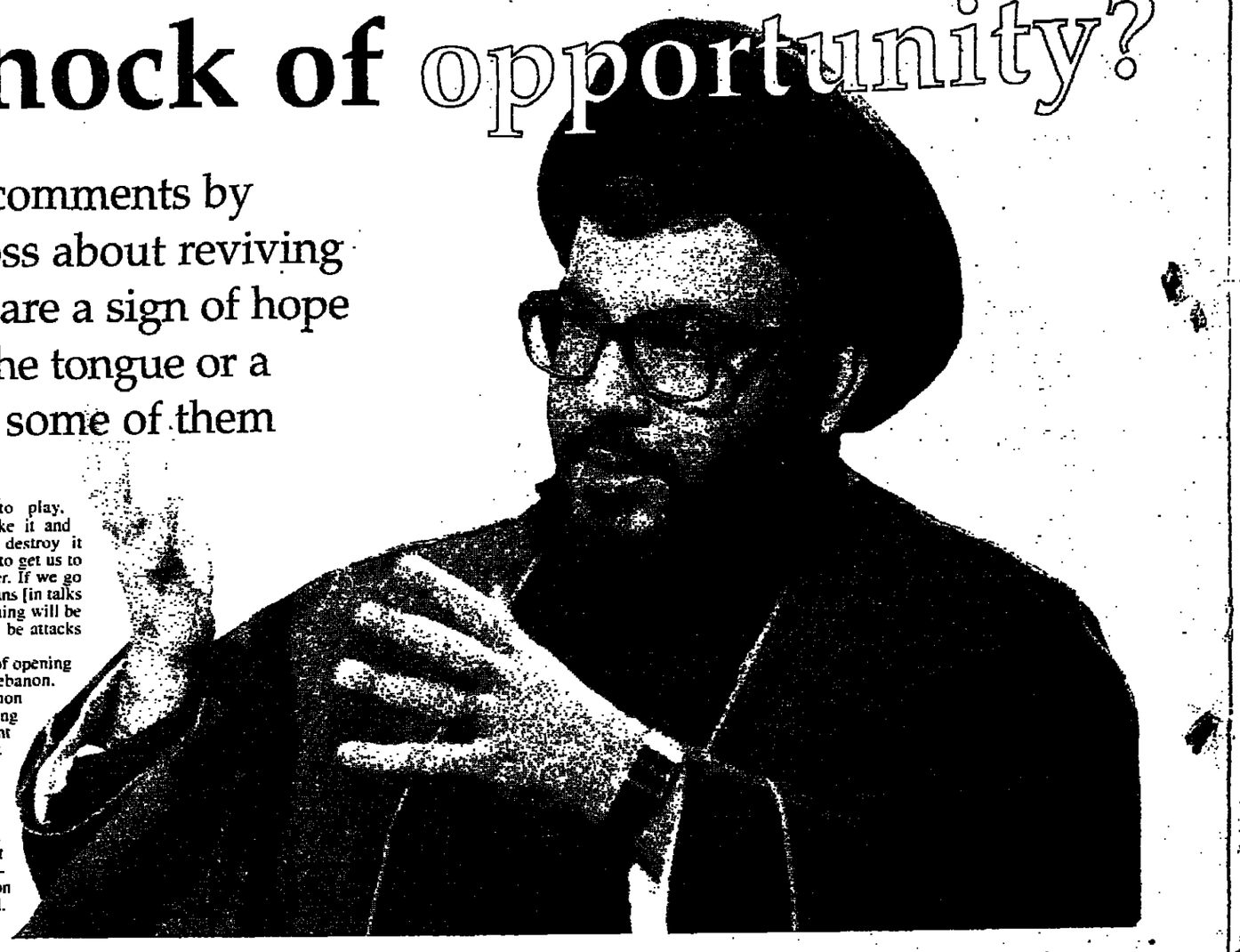
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Lebanon's knock of opportunity?

Analysts differ over whether comments by Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Hoss about reviving armistice arrangements with Israel are a sign of hope for extracting the IDF, a slip of the tongue or a PR ploy. Ben Lynfield spoke to some of them



Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah: 'Lebanon is for Israel what Vietnam was for the US.' (AP)

In an interview with the Lebanese Broadcast Channel International a year-and-a-half ago, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah voiced an observation which many Israelis would endorse: "Lebanon is for Israel what Vietnam was for the US."

With seemingly uncheckable Hizbullah attacks and ambushes taking a heavy toll – three soldiers and an Israel Radio reporter last week – there is a belief across the political spectrum that the IDF should get out of Lebanon, putting an end to long years of occupation, interventions and ill-fated invasions.

The question is how.

Did Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Hoss's recent reference to the revival of the 1949 Israeli-Lebanese armistice point toward a way?

Israeli analysts differed sharply this week over its significance, reflecting a divergent reading of the intentions of Syria.

Hoss, in an interview with the BBC on Saturday, said that "an Israeli withdrawal would revive the armistice agreement, and according to the armistice agreement, there can be no action, no military actions across the border."

Asked whether he could guarantee there would be no such military action, Hoss said: "The agreement dictates this explicitly."

But the 70-year-old Sunni Moslem politician later said his words had been misunderstood, and stressed that Lebanon had no intention of entering into negotiations on security matters with Israel. "Our position is firm and will not change. Lebanon is not ready to discuss any security arrangements for an Israeli pullout."

In the view of David Kimche, former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and head of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, Hoss's statements do not represent anything new for Israel. "I think he wanted to show the world that Lebanon isn't preventing Israel from withdrawing if it wants to.

"I think it's public relations," said Kimche, who led negotiations of a 1983 agreement with Lebanon that was torpedoed by Damascus. "The situation is simple: for the Syrians, Hizbullah is a wonderful card to play, though they don't like it and would be happy to destroy it when the time comes to get us to withdraw to the border. If we go forward with the Syrians [in talks on the Golan], everything will be fine. If not, there will be attacks against us."

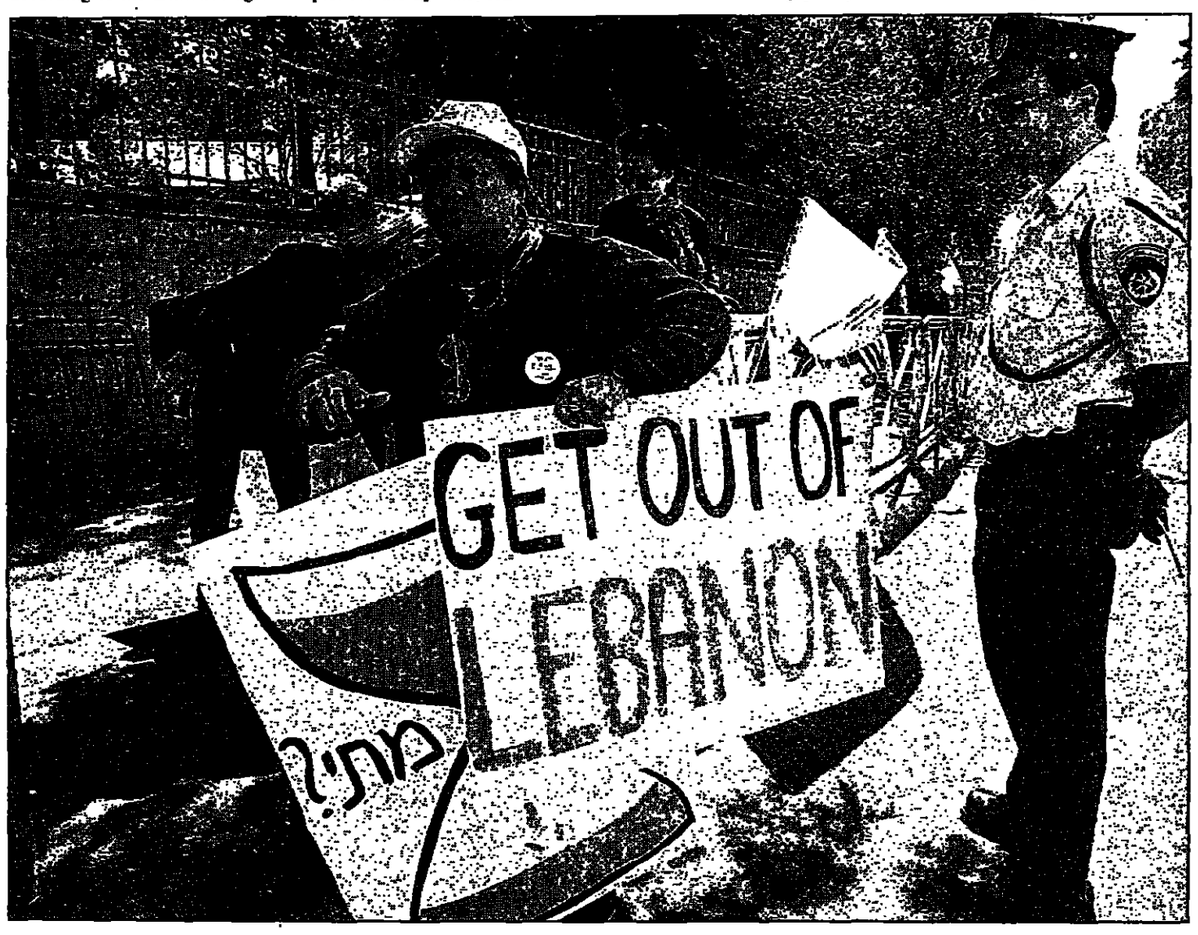
Regarding the idea of opening negotiations with Lebanon, Kimche said: "Lebanon at the moment is doing what the Syrians want it to do. It hasn't got much of a role. We can withdraw and hermetically seal the border and reduce the [security] zone, but we cannot expect meaningful negotiations with Lebanon on security," Kimche said. "Syria would never allow it."

Moshe Maoz, of the Hebrew University's department of Middle Eastern Studies, also discounted Hoss's remarks as insignificant. In Maoz's view, they were a "slip of the tongue" which Hoss clarified after an angry Syrian response. Syrian influence is pervasive across the political system and no one would buck Syria's wishes, he said.

"The writing is on the wall in terms of what happened to [Bashir] Jemayel and [Kamal] Jumblatt," he said, referring to Maronite and Druse leaders whose deaths are believed to have been at Syrian hands.

While an Israeli unilateral withdrawal might decrease the motivation of Hizbullah, Syria could still use its proxies for launching cross-border attacks, says Maoz. "Then what would happen? Another operation? We've been there before. Conquer Lebanon? We've already done that.

"For a comprehensive settlement with Lebanon, the price is the entire Golan. It is a heavy price, but there is no other way to get it," Maoz said.



Four mothers demonstration (AP)

BUT Avraham Sela, a Middle East specialist in the International Relations department at the Hebrew University, rejects the assumption of Kimche, Maoz and most other analysts that Syria is using Hizbullah as a card to regain the Golan Heights.

"I don't think the Syrians are involved in the way many Israelis think they are, that the Syrians are using Lebanon as a whip to push Israel to the negotiating table," said Sela, who is active in the Four Mothers movement that favors a unilateral pullout.

In Sela's view, Lebanon and Syria will never give Israel a formal agreement on security arrangements because that would amount to rewarding Israel for its occupation. Israel should instead opt for a tacit arrangement along the lines cited by Hoss, with an Israeli withdrawal, Lebanon providing security against attacks, and reconstitution of an armistice committee, Sela suggests.

"This came from the highest level of the Lebanese authorities and it is fully backed by Syria. So what is the point of saying we still want a piece of paper?"

Sela believes an outdated assessment of Syria is overshadowing Israeli decision-making in Lebanon, dating back to when Damascus torpedoed the May 1983 agreement and then thwarted talks held at Nakoura in 1984-5.

"From that time on, the image of Syria as an omnipotent power with a veto has gotten stuck in the minds of Israelis," Sela says.

> *'Once Israel is beyond the international border, there is no reason for any organization to attack Israel – the only reason is our presence there'*
> *– Avraham Sela, Hebrew University*

But today's Syria has different capabilities and interests, he argues, pointing to the loss of its Soviet ally, the aging of its military arsenal and serious economic woes. As evidence, Sela cites the weak Syrian response to the signing of the Oslo agreement, despite its opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and Damascus's accession to Turkish demands that it curb its help to the PKK.

Syria's view, he says, "is that if they want the Americans to mediate and bring the negotiations [on the Golan] to a productive point, they can't behave as they did during the 1980s."

Martin Kramer, director of the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University, believes it would be a mistake to assume quiet along the northern border if Israel opted for a unilateral pullout.

Hizbullah is motivated by ideology and other factors to undertake cross-border attacks, perhaps using the Palestinian cause as a cover for them, he says.

Moreover, while Syria has the power to curb Hizbullah, a unilateral withdrawal does not provide it with the incentive to take it out of action, Kramer stresses.

"Syria's interests would be mixed. The reconstruction of the Lebanese state is their creation, but at the same time they would be losing important leverage [for the Golan]," he says.

"A little ambiguity on the frontier might be in Syria's interest," he adds.

The cost of cross-border attacks would have to be weighed against the cost of keeping soldiers in the security zone, Kramer adds.

"Without creating an incentive for the Syrians to come along, you are running a risk," says Kramer. "It may be that at the end of the day things would be better, possibly they would be worse."

BORDER

Continued from Page B1

"I did this with Itzik [Mordechai]. We are talking about the final permits, now all [the various settlements] have to do is bring in the people and the money."

Mordechai had to sign the actual permits, but Cohen was the man who got everything together for his signature.

Cohen, who replaced Noah Kinarti as the defense minister's settlement adviser in January 1997, sums up construction under Netanyahu as follows: "In '97 there were not many new starts, because permits were needed, and the granting of these permits was frozen under Rabin.

"The permits started flowing in 1997, and the biggest push came in 1998. The permits given in 1998 will enable the building of tens of thousands of housing units. Some of these units should be well under way by the end of 1999."

Even Ha'etzni, who says that in terms of planning and construction in Judea and Samaria, the first year and a half under Netanyahu were lost, admits that now building, and the issuing of building permits, is moving apace. But he mourns what he says was 18 wasted months.

"When Netanyahu came into office, we won a gift – a gift we worked very hard for," he says. "But when we got it, he allowed the time to pass.

"Because he intentionally slowed things down in the beginning, we wasted between one and a half and two years, a period of time when units could have both been planned and built."

Asked why that time is significant, if now tens of thousands of units have been permitted, Ha'etzni replies: "Now I have approved plans, but if the government changes, [they] will be nothing but worthless pieces of paper."

Indeed, Rabin froze thousands of housing units for which permits had already been issued, and in some cases stopped construction halfway through. The final permits to build can be withdrawn by government decree.

Despite this, Ha'etzni supported the toppling of Netanyahu's government, and still believes it was the right thing to do.

The reason: "If the Wye accords are implemented, you can build all you want; the buildings will stand empty. No one will buy, because no one will purchase a house when he looks across the street and sees a Palestinian's Kalashnikov."

Even now, Ha'etzni says, there are buildings standing empty in some settlements. Peace Now's Raz says a number of tenders for construction in the settlements have been withdrawn, because contractors are not willing to take the risk of building in politically risky areas.

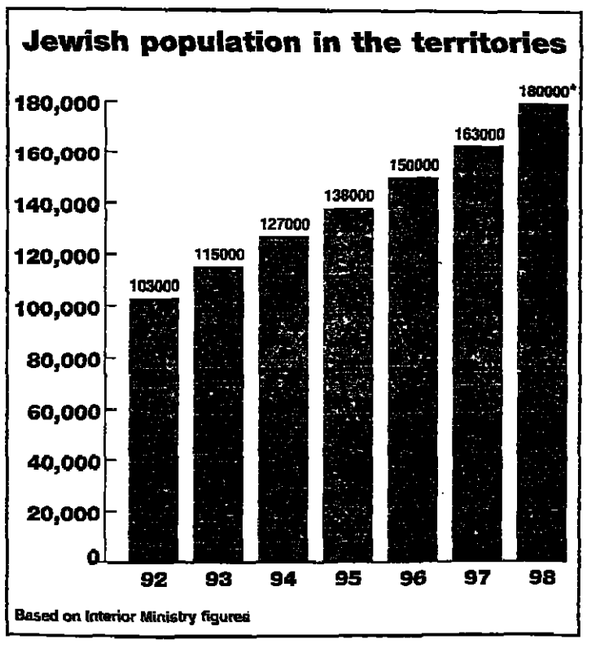
He also claims that some 3,000 housing units stand empty in the settlements, a number hotly refuted by settlement leaders.

FORMER defense minister Mordechai is the man settlement leaders love to blame for the slowdown in building that accompanied the changing of the governmental guard in 1996.

One of the first things the Netanyahu government did upon coming to power was to abolish a special ministerial committee set up under Rabin to approve any new construction in the settlements.

Instead, Netanyahu placed the final say back in the hands of the defense minister, but made him responsible for signing on seven different stages. This created a bureaucratic bottleneck that Cohen started to unplug a few months after coming into office.

According to Cohen, all the building the government has approved is taking place in existing settlements. He says Netanyahu pledged not to build new settlements, and has stuck to his word. This, however, is open to interpretation.



For instance, Raz claims that some 14 new settlements have been set up recently, and a total of 20 since the '96 elections. Many of these "new settlements," however, consist of putting up mobile homes on land that is within an existing settlement's "city limits."

On the ground, Cohen admits, these few mobile homes may look like a different settlement. "But if you look at it in another 25 years, it will be one settlement.

"The Americans understand that expansion is natural. But they think that if you have a built-up area it's natural for the next neighborhood to be built right up next to it.

"That is not natural for the settlers. They say, that area I already have; I want to go to the outer limits of the settlement and move inward."

Cohen says that this interpretation seems reasonable if the outer limit is within a kilometer away from the built-up area. "If it is beyond a kilometer away it does not seem reasonable, but there are not many like this."

According to Raz, there are a number of settlements that have put up caravans beyond the one-kilometer limit Cohen referred to.

What Cohen did when he was settlement adviser was push the borders of the settlements to their absolute limits. Facts established on the ground – be it a mobile home here, a hothouse there – are what will ultimately determine what remains in Israeli hands, he says.

"The [map of the] Oslo Accords stopped where there was a hothouse," he says. "The city limits of a settlement did not keep it from being given away under Oslo, but a physical presence did."

Which is not to say that the city limits are not important. Under the Wye map approved by the government, land was not given up that fell inside any of the settlements' city limits – city limits extended under Netanyahu's tenure.

Prior to serving as Mordechai's settlement adviser, Cohen was director-general of the World Zionist Organization's settlement division, which shares some responsibility for rural settlements in the West Bank. In that capacity, he tried under Rabin to extend the settlements' approved master plan and city limits, but was rebuffed.

"At that time I spent millions to draw up master plans for the maximum jurisdictional limits. I took architects, the whole works," he says. "I took these plans to Kinarti, and he rejected them.

"But when I then became the adviser to Mordechai [replacing Kinarti], I accepted everything he rejected... all the master plans from start to finish."

The approved master plans in Judea, Samaria and Gaza can now accommodate some 1.5 million Jews, he says.

An approved master plan for a settlement does not mean that a settlement can go build there tomorrow; but it does give the settlement statutory rights over the land, and they can draw up detailed plans for projects within the master-plan area. In addition, mobile homes can be set up there under certain conditions.

The master plan, Cohen says, is often 10 times bigger than the built-up area of the settlement.

Indeed, Cohen says the placement of these mobile homes on the outer reaches of certain settlements runs strictly according to the contours of the Defense Ministry's national interest map for final status in the territories.

The ministry drew up two maps, Cohen explains – one that defines what Israel needs to hold onto for security needs, and another it needs to hold onto for national-interest needs, the so-called settlement map.

The placement of mobile homes on the exterior of settlements does not go beyond that map by even a kilometer, he claims.

Each government leaves its imprint on the settlements.

If Shamir's legacy was the construction of a huge reservoir of buildings in the settlements, and Rabin's imprint – along with a declared settlement freeze – was the construction of a network of bypass roads that made dozens of settlements more accessible, Netanyahu's legacy is likely to be the approval of master plans for the settlements that extend their boundaries to the absolute maximum.

If he wins reelection, his legacy may also very well be the construction of tens of thousands of new homes whose permits were issued in the last year of his first term.

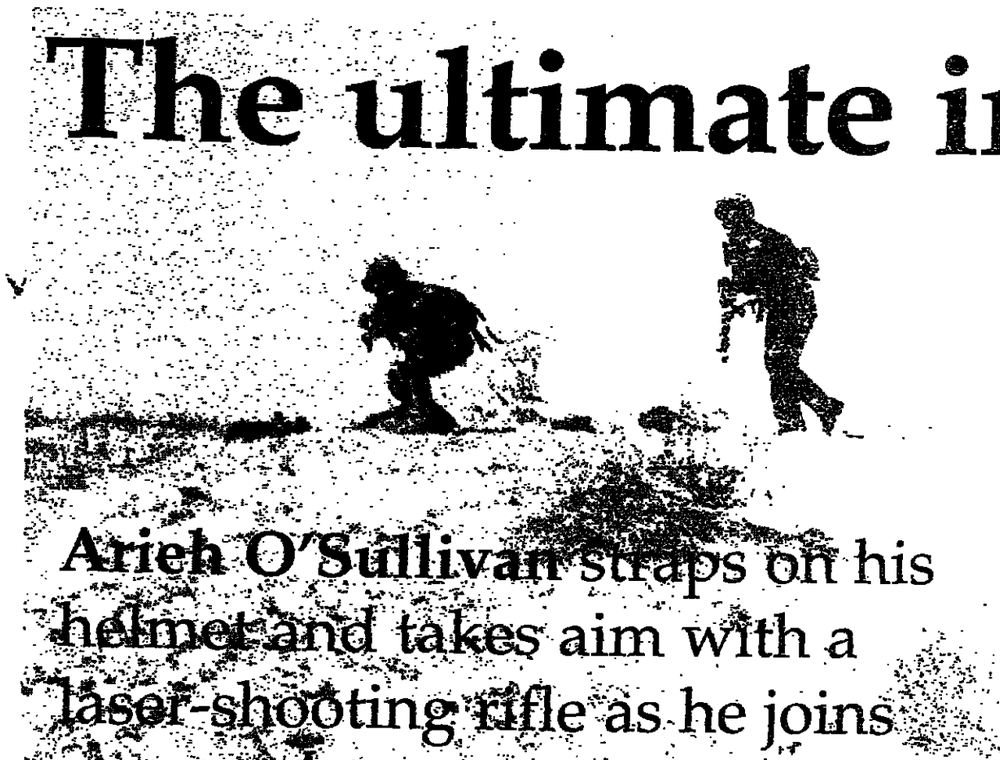


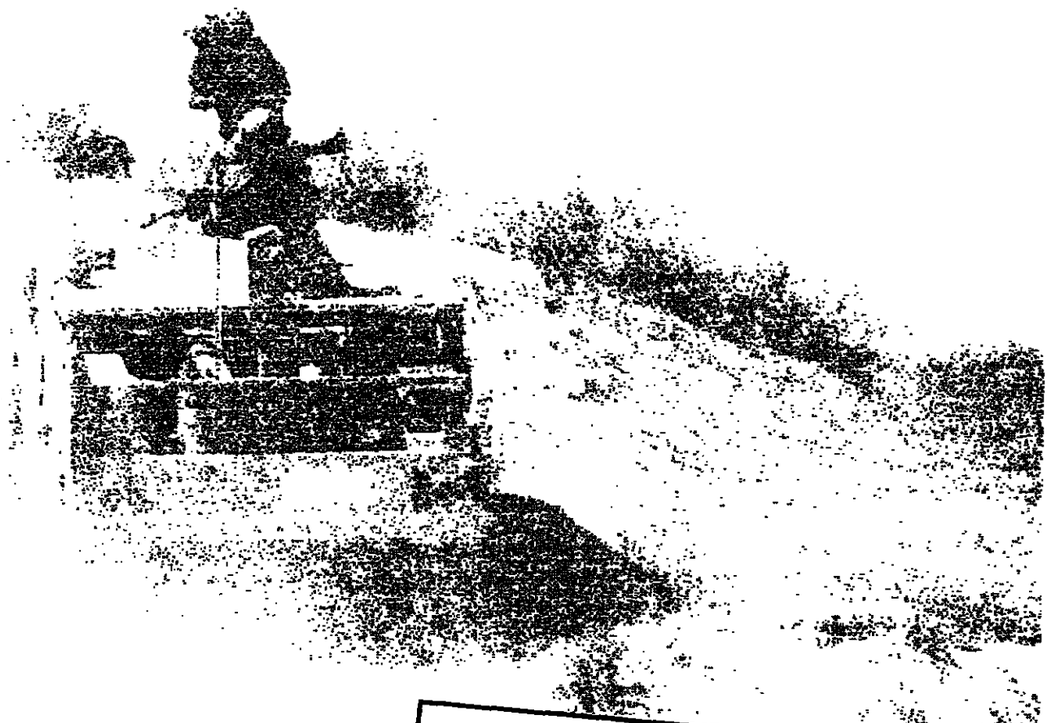
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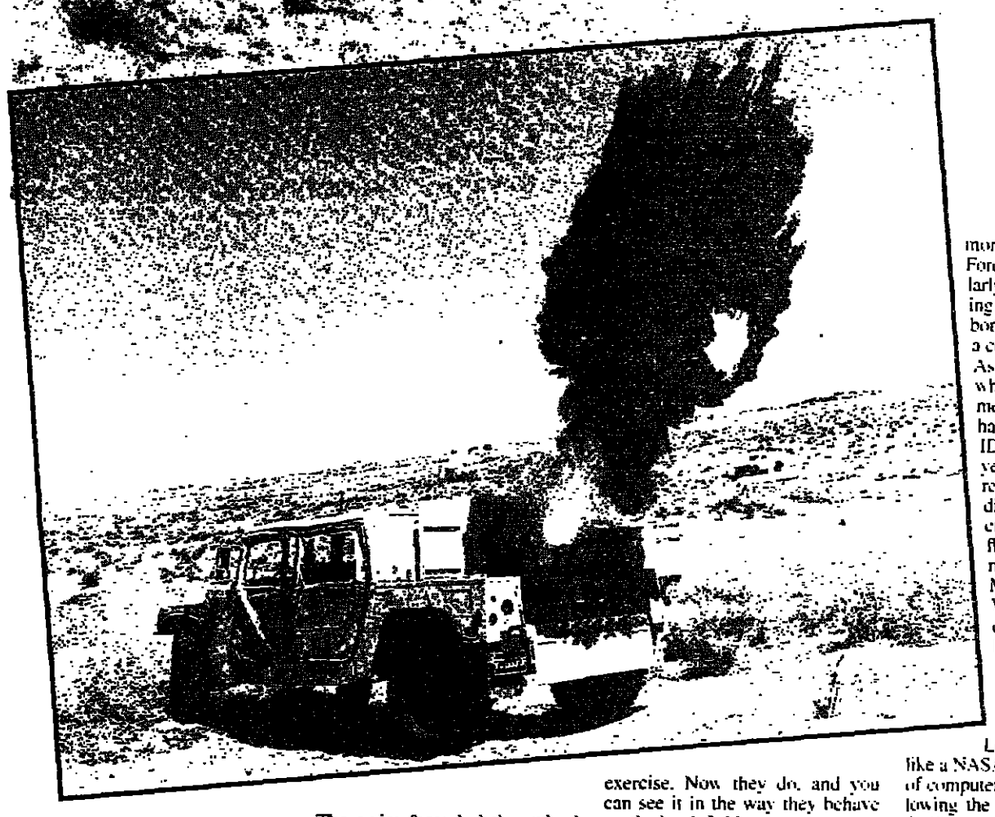
The ultimate in war games







Arieh O'Sullivan straps on his helmet and takes aim with a laser-shooting rifle as he joins an exercise at Israel's state-of-the-art training base





C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre (It is magnificent, but it is not war)

– Marechal Bosquet

It's quiet... too damn quiet.

I'm riding in my tank. OK, it's not really a tank. It's a US-built Humvee that looks more like a Mardi Gras (carnival) float decorated with a fiberglass mock-up of a tank.

The only noise is the radio hissing as we bounce over the dunes trying to keep up with the "tanks" in front of us. I've just strapped on my IDF-issue helmet. I check the clip of my M-16 assault rifle to make sure it's properly inserted.

My buddy Dani Shalom, the military reporter from *Hatzofeh*, is next to me. His mane of hair boldly refuses to stay under his helmet and he fiddles with his ammunition clip. We know we're in for a fight, we just don't know from where, so we keep our eyes wide open.

Suddenly white smoke starts pouring out of the vehicles in front of me. I glance up. Our tank is also spitting out smoke. The angel of death, sounding very much like a computer-generated voice, comes over our speaker saying: "You are under an artillery attack."

The force commander yells at us to scatter, and Lt. Motti, our faithful tank commander, shouts at our driver to split right and we surge over a few more dunes, churning up Negev dust.

Suddenly the tank in front of us belches out a black cloud. Its lights are flashing. "Anti-tank rocket attack!" the lieutenant yells.

Ohmigod! Isn't that Israel Radio's Carmela Menashe's tank? I wonder. Our vehicle comes to a halt. "They're shooting at us. Go! Go! Go!" Motti yells. At any moment we could vanish in a puff of smoke... or at least begin to bleep.

I'M out. Three figures are on the hill before us. Next thing I know I'm rolling on the ground, cocking my weapon, flipping off its safety catch and – God help me – I am trying to shoot the enemy. I want to kill. I put the crosshairs over one man's chest and I fire. The gun barks. He doesn't fall. I shoot again. The rest of the unit is out now and charging forward, hot metal cases spraying out of their guns.

The entire force is being wiped out. Lights are flashing. Computers are bleeping. Shells are exploding. Machine guns are clattering. Isn't that the *Ma'ariv* reporter? Why isn't he fighting back? Is he hit? Is he dead?

All right, not dead in the classic sense of being punctured dozens of times by a ricocheting wad of molten steel from an anti-tank round. Dead on this virtual battlefield means bleeping like a burglar alarm.

I take more shots, but the men on the hill keep firing. All it'll take is one measly shot and I'm history. I run up the slope and hit the dirt like *I did half a life ago, when I was a paratrooper.* I just want to mow down the enemy. I'm blasting away, chewing the splinters out of my hand and spitting them out. Bullet cases are strewn around me in the sand like cigarette butts after a party.

All I needed right then was my cigar and for the Duke, Lee Marvin and Steve McQueen to appear with a case of whiskey and we'd keep on driving until we got to Texas!

Boys at war. Arrrugh! *C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la guerre.*

THAT'S right. It's just a war game. Here in the isolated dunes of Tze'elim we are fighting the most sophisticated war game in history. Mohammed or Ahmed or Jackson or whoever the enemy is these days is shooting lasers, not real rockets or tank shells. Every man, LAW (light anti-tank weapon) and tank cannon is fitted with a laser and receptors that reveal when they have been hit. Soldiers wear a special jacket that bleeps when they are wounded or killed.

Still, it's all frighteningly real.

The powers-that-be call off the attack, which is just as well since my magazine is empty. I'm not bleeping. I've survived the engagement, but had I not I'd have gotten the God Gun, a square pistol that resets the system and resurrects us.

"This is God. We don't usually use this since we want them to feel that it's not a game," says Capt. Mani, a former combat engineer company commander and course instructor.

Before this technology was available, soldiers never had to think about being hit during an exercise. Now they do, and you can see it in the way they behave on the battlefield.

"Sure it looks kind of ridiculous," he says pointing to the fiberglass frame. "When they [reservists] first get here they look at it like a toy. But you should see them after their first battle. Suddenly they are crawling up the dunes and acting like they're in a real war."

THE IDF set up the state-of-the-art National Training Center (NTC) at its Field Unit Training Center in Tze'elim to put its ground forces through a realistic modern battlefield where battalions battle each other with lasers and are monitored by computers.

Brig.-Gen. Yiftah, commander of the Tze'elim training base, said the NTC, known in Hebrew as Matbat, was a "true revolution" in training ground forces. The new training center will provide both regular and reserve infantry, armor and engineering units with force-on-force training.

The NIS 330 million center monitors forces in the field and includes a control center and a modern debriefing room. It has been operational for about a year, but prototyping is not yet complete. Senior commanders expect the range to eventually allow up to brigade level force-on-force exercises by this summer. Later, exercises will even include attack helicopters.

The training center will be used mostly by the 80,000 to 90,000 reservists who train there annually, but the IDF hopes to bring the entire conscript ground forces through the cyber-battlefield over the next couple of years.

The IDF has always put a lot of emphasis on live-fire exercises, but this type of training, which lacks the force-on-force dynamic, did not provide adequate feedback.

The IDF is pumping lots of money into the Ground Forces Command, particularly when it comes to training reservists, still the backbone of the IDF's defense in a conventional war.

As a result, Tze'elim isn't what it used to be. The mess halls, which had been hauled up from abandoned IDF bases in the Sinai 20 years before, have been replaced with brand-new dining rooms. The IDF is currently replacing its fleet of 30-year-old command cars with High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles – otherwise known as Humvees.

IN the middle of the base is a large, air-conditioned control center. Looking suspiciously like a NASA space center, the rows of computer monitors there are following the battles going on in its 2,500-square-kilometer training grounds.

The whole thing was developed by Lockheed Martin with subcontracting to Rafael. It is run by a private company. Controllers are former IDF field commanders who feed information to commanders in the field. Every one of the base's 200 mocked-up tanks and armored personnel carriers can be followed on screen.

Until the American technicians leave, the tanks are all formatted as M-60 "Patton" tanks. But the computer can configure in any tank and its relative protection. When a tank is hit by a laser, the computer instantly determines what damage is caused. It is programmed to mark four types of hits: mobility kill, communication kill, firepower kill and catastrophic kill. It also warns of a chemical contamination attack.

The new system enables combat with special effects like simulated smoke for tank fire and strikes, and audio notification of casualties and hits. If a tank suffers a direct hit, red smoke pours out and the computer says: "You have been hit. You are destroyed." The assault rifles use real blanks as they fire lasers.

"It's been 18 years since I was under fire during the Lebanon War," says reserve battalion commander Lt.-Col. Shaike El-Ami, his unit currently pinned down and halted. "This is really a revolution in training. There's a lot more enthusiasm among the guys in the battalion to train. They like it. People like to play." Abroad, people like to play war so much that both men and women pay to shoot balls of paint at each other. In Israel, the government pays you, that is if you are fortunate enough to be called up to the NTC for a stint of reserve duty.

Reservists had nothing but praise for the new system. But instructors called it a terrible blow to the traditional swagger and bombast of many IDF officers. No matter how emphatic one may be about the battle, the computer doesn't lie.

"Sometimes we finish the battles and no one is left alive. And sometimes we finish with few casualties, but without fulfilling the mission," says Sgt. Gil, a veteran driver on the center. "But the really humiliating thing for the battalion commanders is when they see just how bad their soldiers really are. They talk big about how great their guys are, motivated and disciplined and well trained. But often they are wiped out in battle."

One officer noted that even in war it takes time for soldiers to adapt to real battle conditions and most casualties are incurred in the first few days.

Tank drivers are not called up for this kind of training, since it is usually for commanders. The vehicles are driven mostly by female instructors.

THE IDF says the center costs about NIS 64 million to run over a three-year period that includes 40 weeks of annual training. It costs the military another NIS 20 million to bring in the reservists for training. But at the same time, operators say, the center saves the army NIS 50 million a year in fuel and ammunition costs alone.

The IDF also sees the NTC as a future money-making venture and has no opposition to foreign armies paying to use the virtual battlefield.

"The IDF can make a lot of money here. The NTC run by the US Army in Germany charges the German army $1 million a day to train there. I've no fear of our doctrine spilling over to other armies. The only problem I see is that we don't expect the NTC to rest for even one day," says Brig.-Gen. Yiftah.

But NTC commander Col. Avi says that the center is large enough to allow parallel battalion vs. battalion operations in divided areas. He said the NTC has a more advanced digital recording system than the one run by the Americans in California and that the computers can be reprogrammed to speak English.

"This is the only one like it in the world," says GOC Ground Corps Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ivri-Sukenik. "The time is gone when commanders would argue over facts in exercises. There won't be any more situations where the officer who shouts the loudest, or with the deepest baritone, can declare himself the winner."

"It's a real revolution," Ivri-Sukenik says. "The Americans were the pioneers of this system and we adopted the ideas from them. But I am sure that armies from all over the world will come here and see what we have done."

Game over. I make my way up the hill as our enemy emerges, toting bazookas and machine guns. They are all instructors... women instructors.



(Top) A mock armored personnel carrier looks as if it means business: (far left) Special effects make this humvee look like it's in the thick of battle; (right) A female instructor takes a bead on the 'enemy'; (left) Arieh O'Sullivan enjoys a cigar after his virtual battle.

Photos: Gideon Markowitz

A quiet place in the sun



As the premier's spokesman, Shai Bazak crossed swords daily with Israel's press. Is he suffering from withdrawal symptoms now that he's turned diplomat? Not a bit, he tells Gil Hoffman in Miami

Sitting in a posh downtown Miami office with a view of the Biscayne Bay, Shai Bazak seems as far removed as possible from the intense, action-packed Israeli political scene he left some six months ago.

He eases back in his chair, glances at the half-finished cigar on his desk and takes a look outside his window.

"I created this view just because you were coming," he jokes. "It's a little bit kitsch – the palms and the sea – but this is it."

Bazak has settled comfortably into his post as Israel's consul general to Florida and Puerto Rico. After acting as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's spokesman for four years, he's now the man in charge, with four diplomats and a staff of 20.

The man who used to fight off questions from a hungry Israeli press corps now explains Israel's policies to Florida's Jewish community and local congressmen. He also plans Israeli cultural events.

At 31 he's one of the youngest consuls general ever, but he hasn't been tardy in using his charisma and cleverness to make inroads with the movers and shakers of south Florida.

The career diplomats who work with him say they're amazed at how fast the political appointee has picked up their trade.

"There are things that are new to him, but in a very short time he has succeeded in making connections with people here on both the Left and the Right," says his top deputy consul, Chaim Regev.

Gary Rubin, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Broward County (Fort Lauderdale), says he's impressed with the new consul.

"He has tried to engage our community more than anyone has done in the past. He makes a very positive impression."

COUNTERING gossip that he was sent to Florida to quiet the scandal surrounding the Strashnov Affair, Bazak insists his appointment had been planned for months.

Bazak was appointed to the Florida post after he was fingered for allegedly linking Netanyahu to an affair involving convicted spy Nahum Manbar and Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov.

Bazak reportedly told Pninat Yanai, a member of Manbar's defense team, that after Manbar was convicted Netanyahu had intended to blame former prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres for mishandling Manbar's case. At the time it seemed the Foreign Ministry pushed through Bazak's appointment more quickly than usual.

But Bazak dismisses any connection to the Strashnov Affair as a case of bad timing. He picks up a recent news story that says Strashnov was cleared of all wrongdoing by a government investigation.

"See – my name is not even mentioned in this report," he points out. "When you're a senior adviser to the prime minister, sometimes people try to use your name to hurt him. I'm a public person and this is part of my life."

Bazak believes his reputation has been cleared and that when he returns to Israel it will be with a clean slate.

But he seems in no hurry at all to return. While his former colleagues in Israel are jockeying for position in the heat of a political campaign, he is enjoying his role as a non-partisan diplomat.

"Of course I miss all the political storms," he says, "but I'm not suffering here. I believe I'll have enough political storms [yet] in my life."

In a designer suit and tie and with thinning hair, Bazak looks like a typical American businessman. But his thick accent still gives him away. He's trying to learn Spanish – essential in a city filled with Cuban and Latin American immigrants.

His main accomplishment has been getting approval for a 15-month Israeli exhibition at Epcot Center in Walt Disney World, which will premiere in October. He saw the need for it after visiting the resort with his brother last year.

BESIDES Disney, Bazak has visited the Everglades and the coffeehouses along Miami's trendy South Beach. But, he says, he's stayed away from the nightclub scene.

Describing his reputation in Israeli social circles as "exaggerated," Bazak, who is single, says he sometimes hangs out with other diplomats but doesn't mind being alone. "It's sometimes lonely here, but it's not so bad," he says with a shy smile.

Perhaps the highlight of his American experience was last month's Superbowl game in Miami. He called the prime minister from the game, reaching him at home.

The two are close friends and speak often, he says.

Bazak adds that he admires Netanyahu and hopes to emulate the way he used his time in America to further his political career.

"To be a leader in Israel, you have to know America – the culture, the press, the American mentality," Bazak says. "Everyone can see that the time [Netanyahu] spent in the US helped him improve the state of Israel.

"This is why the prime minister sent me here, to help me when I'm back in Israel to contribute to the political map."

Bazak does not venture to guess when that will be, but says he has every intention of completing his three-year assignment, which ends in October 2001.

In the meantime, he's prepared to represent any Israeli government, even one led by Ehud Barak. He doubts he'll move on to a higher profile position if Netanyahu is reelected in May, but he adds, "I'm not a prophet."

Left-leaning Jews in Florida might have expected the former Gush Katif resident to come blazing in as a hawk and continue to act as a mouthpiece for Netanyahu, but Bazak has adopted the diplomatic doctrine, asserting that he acts as an impartial representative of all Israeli views.

"I didn't come here to reeducate people or preach to them," he says. "I came here to represent the state of Israel.

"I don't think there's any movement or opinion in Israel that's unacceptable. I leave that to them to judge."

That strategy works well in dealing with the wide range of opinions in south Florida's Jewish community, which has grown to more than 250,000 according to the latest Federation surveys and is fast becoming one of the largest Jewish populations in the US.

It's Bazak's job to explain to Reform and Conservative Jews why the Knesset would pass a law barring them from religious councils. He says he's spoken to many people who feel rejected, offended and hurt by the law.

In response, he tries to explain to them the political realities in Israel.

For instance, he tells the Miami communities that Reform and Masorti Jews in Israel number less than 20,000. (However, local representatives of both movements say their membership is much higher than that.)

In any case, Bazak reassures people that Reform and Conservative conversions in the US will continue to be recognized in Israel.

"There are misunderstandings between the Jewish communities in Israel and here," he says. "I am here to try to get people to understand each other."

Bazak says he sees the strong feelings American Jews have on issues like conversion and the religious councils as positive.

"Sometimes people here are angry, sometimes they're just concerned," he says. "Either way makes me happy because it shows they care about the state of Israel. They feel a right, an obligation, and a duty to care about what happens there," he says.

Jacob Solomon, executive vice president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, says that Bazak has been "very understanding of why the pluralism issue is so important to us. He's been supportive of our community's efforts to make those feelings known to the political structure in Israel."

"People here respect his even-handed approach," Solomon added.

QUESTIONS on issues like the peace process and Israel's relationship with the US and Jordan are easy for Bazak to answer. He's been doing it for years. Bazak admits that his old job was much harder, but, he says, being away from Israel has allowed him to see the country from a different perspective.

"I really see that a strong Israel is important, not just to Israel, but to the whole Jewish world," he says. "Sometimes people forget that Israel's strong back supports all the world's Jewish communities."

As consul general, Bazak has greeted several influential Israelis who have visited Miami, including Center Party leaders Yitzhak Mordechai and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Bazak says he treated them as friends, staying out of politics as he is required to do. They discussed a number of topics – but Mordechai's defection from the Likud was not among them.

"When you're a diplomat, you don't have to get involved in inside political struggles," he says. "There are some benefits to being far away."

There are also some benefits to being in charge.

After serving as a loyal apprentice, Bazak appears ready to step away from his mentor's shadow.

He takes a look at the photograph of Netanyahu on the wall and then at the view of the sea and the palm trees and says: "After several years of running like crazy, I'm on my own now.

"I was an aide to the most important person in Israel – but I was still an aide. Here, I am in charge and I am very happy."



(Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)



(Clockwise from top) Shai Bazak in his new office: 'I miss all the political storms;' the Miami skyline; Bazak with former boss Binyamin Netanyahu.

هكذا من الأصل

Why people need People weekly

By sharing the most intimate details of celebrities' lives, 'People' magazine makes its readers feel better about themselves. That's the reason for its 25-year success, writes Pamela Warrick



(Ariel Jerozolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Damn, he thought. Elvis Presley was dead. On Tuesday. Wouldn't you know it. These things always seemed to happen on Tuesday, the day the magazine was supposed to close.

It was August 16, 1977, and *People* magazine's founding editor, Dick Stolley, was putting the finishing touches on the next week's cover. With the deadline looming, Stolley mourned Elvis's poorly timed demise, but didn't think it was worth replacing the cover he had planned.

"The King" was dead, but, as the nation grieved, the cover of *People* would tout bug-eyed comedian Marty Feldman and actress Ann-Margret in a movie remake of *Beau Geste*.

Not putting Elvis on the cover – even if it meant stopping the presses – was a miscalculation that caused Stolley enormous regret and cost *People* millions in lost newsstand sales. But it was a valuable lesson.

To appreciate how well it was learned, count the number of covers *People* has posthumously dedicated to Princess Diana.

Never again would a celebrity go out of this world without a proper full-cover send-off from *People*. Nor would a celebrity get married, get arrested, get pregnant or get divorced without a story from *People*.

As *People* celebrates its 25th anniversary, the weekly that wrote the book on personality journalism is more popular and profitable than ever. For reasons ranging from Cher's navel to Monica's dress, from Brad and Gwyneth "Calling It Quitteth," to Charles and Camilla "Together at Last," the magazine we trust to tell us who's hot and who's not is now read by a stunning one in five Americans.

With few exceptions – among them, *People's* controversial decision to make first daughter Chelsea Clinton a cover subject – the magazine has maintained a reputation for gentle journalism that keeps it at the front of the pack of celebrity news hounds.

It has become a safe place for stars to turn when they marry (as Barbra Streisand did when she wed James Brolin), when they want to set the record straight (as Calista Flockhart tried to do with her rumored anorexia) or when they have major news (as Michael J. Fox did with his exclusive-to-*People* announcement that he was battling Parkinson's disease).

MORE than any magazine of the 20th century, *People* has successfully exploited what one editor has called "the curious willingness of people to talk about profoundly personal things."

"It is a journalistic and cultural phenomenon," marvels media psychologist Stuart Fischoff.

"Twenty-five years ago, when we were at the crest of a national obsession with celebrities and their lives, *People* magazine was there to catch the wave."

But *People's* greatest contribution, says Fischoff, a professor at California State University, Los Angeles, "may be that it simply helps us through the night."

When *People* magazine made its debut on February 25, 1974 (although the issue was dated March 4), there was considerable speculation that it would soon run out of subjects. After all, skeptics sniffed, how many people in the world are interesting enough to sustain reader attention, let alone a magazine's circulation, 52 times a year?

But from its coy first cover of Mia Farrow nibbling on a string of pearls in her role as *The Great Gatsby's* Daisy to its feverish look inside Burt Reynolds's love affair with Dinah Shore, the magazine was mining a field that until that time was owned by Hollywood's often tawdry fan rags.

People magazine would be different, vowed its creators. It would assume the polished veneer of *Life* magazine (which had folded two years before) and make the most of the credibility of its Time Inc. parents.

It would employ almost as many fact-checkers as it did reporters, and it would strive, as founding editor Stolley pledged, to "never be cruel or awe-struck or gushy."

Whether *People* has achieved those lofty goals depends on whom you ask.

Was it cruel, for example, when in 1987 *People* paid a friend of presidential candidate Gary Hart's paramour, Donna Rice, for a compromising photo of the two dancing in a Bimini bar? Would "gushing" be the best word to describe how *People* covered Elizabeth Taylor's marriage to Larry Fortensky? ("He Does, She Does – They Do!" was the cover caption. A $175,000 donation to Liz's AIDS charity was the price *People* paid to print the wedding pictures.)

And, finally, could publication of 50 covers featuring Princess Diana be construed as evidence of awe-struckness?

'Readers are in a hurry. We want to amuse them, but not confuse them.'

THE *People* formula is this:
- –Young is better than old.
- –Pretty is better than ugly.
- –Rich is better than poor.
- –TV is better than music.
- –Music is better than movies.
- –Movies are better than sports.
- –Anything is better than politics.
- –And nothing is better than the celebrity dead.

The recipe, devised by Stolley (although movies have since ascended), was extracted from the magazine's early successes and failures.

Later, Stolley would add to the winning mix "ordinary people caught up in extraordinary circumstances."

People such as Baby Jessica and her rescue from the well, Ryan White and his battle against AIDS, tax evader Leona Helmsley, the McCaughey septuplets, Heidi Fleiss, Lorena Bobbitt.

Still, the power of *People* lay in its nonstop, gotta-have-it, head-to-toe coverage of people whose names, according to a well-researched *People* equation, were immediately recognizable to at least 80 percent of the American public.

In her book *Inside People* (Villard Books, 1994), former *People* reporter Judy Kessler quotes a top *People* editor's reasons for compressing the magazine's message.

"Readers are in a hurry," noted the editor. "We want to amuse them, but not confuse them."

The emphasis on compression led to a heightened cleverness that began to express itself most vividly during the magazine's breathless countdowns of the world's most intriguing, best-dressed, worst-dressed, and sexiest men alive.

HEADLINES were famous even without the stories they topped. This trio of *People* heads pretty much told the story of the disintegration of Prince Charles and Princess Diana's troubled marriage: "Malice in the Palace," "The Big Chill" and, finally, "Save the Wales!"

As entertaining as *People's* language was, it was the magazine's pioneering use of the now popular "swarm" method of reporting that produced some of its most remarkable stories.

Using hundreds of correspondents and stringers around the world, *People* editors covered celebrity news like other publications covered war.

Even if someone *People* decides to profile doesn't want to be profiled – which happens more often now that the magazine has pulled back from offering money for photos or as-told-to interviews – that won't stop the story.

Staff reporters, researchers and stringers in the field can in a matter of days gather enough information to file "a write-around," a story written around – and often in spite of – the subject's refusal to participate.

With a circulation of 3.6 million and another estimated nine pass-along readers for every issue sold, *People's* reach is formidable.

People leads the industry with annual ad revenues of nearly $627 million. And despite its high-priced subscriptions ($103.48 a year is the going price), it has more than 2.2 million subscribers and another 1.4 million readers who shell out $2.99 a copy to buy it on the newsstand.

IN the last year, *People* also has reached out to two new markets with monthly issues of *Teen People* (which already has a circulation of 1.2 million) and *People en Espanol*.

People also publishes an annual *People Almanac*, *People On-Line*, *People POP Profiles* and an 11-week CNN series to begin airing in mid-March, *People Profiles*.

Will there ever be too much *People*?

Not likely, according to those who study such things.

Some attribute *People's* popularity to its ability to reassure us that we're not so different from those we put on a pedestal: Even the hottest actress in Hollywood breaks up with her boyfriend; even the future king of England can't please his mother.

In short, *People*, by sharing the most intimate details of those envied others' lives, makes us feel better about ourselves.

Media psychologist Fischoff sees it as one more way we ape the apes. "The truth of the matter is, if you go back to the primates, you see that there were always alpha males whom all the rest of us had to groom and flatter and give all our attention to. If we didn't pay attention to these early 'celebrities,' we wouldn't get food and we wouldn't get protection.

"Now here we are in the '90s with an elaboration of that early survival system," says Fischoff, "and though the celebrities are no longer responsible for keeping us safe or well-fed, we still seem to be programmed to need them in our lives." (Los Angeles Times)

The Top 10 covers

The 10 best-selling newsstand *People* covers (regular issues):
1. "Good-bye Diana," Sept. 22, 1997 – 2.992 million sales
2. "John Lennon, 1940-1980: A Tribute," Dec. 22, 1980 – 2.644 million
3. "Princess Grace, 1929-1982: A Tribute," Sept. 27, 1982 – 2.623 million
4. "5th Anniversary Issue: A Surprising Readers' Poll," March 5, 1979 – 2.593 million
5. "Nice Work, Luv: Andy and Fergie Marry," Aug. 4, 1986 – 2.59 million
6. "Oh Boy! Diana Gives Birth to Prince William," July 5, 1982 – 2.579 million
7. "Good Show! Royal Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana," Aug. 3, 1981 – 2.551 million
8. "Olivia Newton-John: Greased Lightning," July 31, 1978 – 2.508 million
9. "Karen Carpenter: Death Comes at 32," Feb. 21, 1983 – 2.506 million
10. "Brooke Shields in 'Blue Lagoon,'" Aug. 11, 1980 – 2.494 million

(The best-selling issue of all time was "Princess Diana's Death," a combined special issue with "1997's Best & Worst Dressed People." It sold more than 5.1 million copies.)
Source: *People* magazine

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INTERVIEWS:
(By appointment with Mr. Scott Siegfried)
Thursday, March 18, 1999
To contact Scott Siegfried call the Hilton Tel Aviv from March 16 - 18 at 5202222

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Goodman's Friday

Get smart

Thank God another week has passed and "only" two months remain to the elections. This week was Ehud Barak's week, being exonerated in the Tze'elim affair. Next week will be Aryeh Deri's, when judgment is handed down by the Jerusalem District Court on charges of bribe-taking, fraud, violating the public trust and falsifying corporate documents. Deri has called for restraint no matter what the outcome. His supporters, however, have threatened that a verdict of guilty will lead to all hell breaking loose. An "intifada" was promised by one.

Whatever the judgment Aryeh Deri will go down as a winner in Israel's political lexicon. From nothing, in 10 short years he has created a powerful movement, Shas, that controls over 10 per cent of the Knesset, has a huge network of schools and yeshivas, owns newspapers and several radio stations, and is a pivotal force in deciding who will lead Isruel in the future. He is one of the canniest and most influential people in politics, with strong allies in both the Likud and Labor; moreover, he enjoys the support of loyal lieutenants who would happily sacrifice themselves for him. More importantly, he also has God on his side – a huge asset.

If Deri is found not guilty, Shas will do well in the elections. But if he is convicted, it will do brilliantly

If Deri is found not guilty, Shas will do well in the elections. But if he is convicted, it will do brilliantly. Deri's spin doctors, who, incidentally, make Arthur Finkelstein and James Carvel look like amateurs, will explain the verdict as Ashkenazi vindictiveness against the Sephardim, as the act of a heathen court against the Torah, and as the Establishment attempting to quash the formerly downtrodden. One only has to walk around Jerusalem or any other city to get a sense of the consequences of conviction. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's picture is everywhere, and the rhetoric is explicit. The "herd factor" will come into play and the ballots will flow in Shas's direction. Of that one can be sure.

Shas not only has the political power to dictate the future leadership of Israel, it also has the power to change the future face of Israel. Its school system is impressive in extent and rate of development, and has done wonders for large families, especially in the development towns, where children in the system receive transportation, meals and a long school day for free. The problem is that they are not receiving an education that will equip them for the future. They do not study mathematics, sciences or foreign languages and are receiving none of the tools that will enable them to become productive members of society. Instead they are being groomed for a life of perpetual poverty, living on the dole.

No one is advocating against a religious education, but for the sake of its own public Shas has to modernize and modify what it is teaching Israel's future generations. Brainpower is our greatest natural resource. The best and brightest of our religious scholars should be able to spend their time studying and disseminating the Torah, but the Technion and the Weizmann Institute have to survive as well, and need both the resources and the students to do so.

WE all know that the country's general education system is teetering on the brink of disaster. Classes are overcrowded, teachers are underpaid, under-trained and overworked. School hours are constantly being reduced, enrichment programs retrenched, and each day there is yet another demand on parents to pay for something they thought had already been paid for by their taxes.

Shas is directly responsible for this situation. With consistency and stealth it has been siphoning off funds through every possible channel, holding the government to ransom over its endless demands. Public kindergartens, schools and universities are getting less while the number of haredi students enjoying state benefits has skyrocketed, and this at a time when Shas is literally hijacking children into its own school system. While setting out to nurture a couple of talmudic geniuses, Shas is also making sure that large numbers will be unqualified to deal with the future.

For the sake of the country, Shas has to be out of the next government. It sounds impossible but it needn't be if, after May 17, our leaders are able to rise above petty party politics and show national responsibility. This is not said in vindictiveness against a grassroots movement that has achieved much and done much for its constituency. Over the past few years, however, this country's national priorities have become totally lopsided. Shas has to be put in its rightful place on the ladder of national priorities and get what it deserves. Not what it can extort.

Hats off to Deri for his achievements to date. It's now the turn of the majority.

Uri Goodman

Playing chicken

Another Tack
Sarah Honig

By All Fools' Day, politicians should have one less thing to be foolish about – the Knesset lists. These must all be formally submitted by the end of March, thereby closing the first, most action-packed phase of the campaign season. With this deadline over his head, Ehud Barak must have felt dejected even as he crowed this week over his One Israel acquisitions. He knows his idea was never to make do with homeless has-beens or flunkies like Gesher and Meimad. One Israel was custom-designed with the Center Party in mind.

But with each passing day, more of the grand scheme crumbles. After April Fools' Day, no more mergers or assorted tomfoolery with the lists will be possible. So Barak loses no chance to stress to any Centrist who lends him an ear that, crowded as One Israel is, there is still room for a few more. But not for long.

Ehud and Itzik are playing 'chicken,' like Fifties hot-rodders steering their souped-up jalopies at each other

This may not be the most tempting of invitations, but it can be dangled before frustrated Centrists as long as they haven't done what other major parties have – compiled their slates of winners, whiners, and marginal malcontents.

Paradoxically, this process should be simplest and speediest in the Center, where it's just the top four honchos haggling. It all comes down to what kind of protekzia a candidate can pull, and if his patron can outgun the other three godfathers. It may be very compact but it is also highly combustible, which is perhaps why Yitzhak Mordechai preferred putting the messy chore off till this coming week (tentatively). By the time the job is done, no one will have much time to raise too much of a racket about the outcome.

Barak, on the other hand, is hoping against hope that Mordechai will never tend to his distasteful duty. Now he can take the Center into One Israel. Later, cooperation might be only a matter of endorsements, which would carry questionable weight and still leave two competing lists. If Mordechai were ever to abandon his prime ministerial ambitions, the most logical time – from Barak's perspective – would be before much more adrenalin and sweat has been invested in inventing a Centrist list. After that, according to Barak's side, it becomes too much a matter of prestige (as if it weren't that already).

So much for logic.

The truth is that logic has little to do with it. Ehud and Itzik are playing "chicken," like Fifties hot-rodders steering their souped-up jalopies at each other to see who will swerve aside first and lose the trial of valor. Our latterday daredevils seek to scare each other out of the prime-ministerial drive.

WHAT will make Mordechai chicken out? The polls, of course. He should believe in them. He wouldn't be where he is now, heading a party, if it weren't for the polls. So Labor hopes Mordechai will keep slipping in the polls till he realizes he has no hope of making it to the runoff in order to give Bibi a licking.

After obligatory guffaws and carping comments about Barak's wishful-thinking and desperate psychological warfare, the Centrists declare that there is no way Mordechai will chicken out.

True, polls now show Barak beating Mordechai in round one, but they don't conclusively indicate that Barak can bash Netanyahu in the second round. Voters who prefer Barak as more highbrow, will switch to Mordechai in the first round if they judge that Barak will lose in the second. A big change is coming, the Centrists predict, but not by April 1.

The date they advise we watch is May 10, a week before polling day.

This is when Barak could veer off the drag strip. His own boosters will by then realize that a Mordechai pull-out from the race can hurt the anti-Netanyahu cause, because voters yanked away from the Right will return home. They will be unable to back a Laborite, even if he disguises his partisan identity under the One Israel alias. If Netanyahu is not to triumph, it's Barak who will have to chicken out, counter the Centrists.

Public sentiment will yet affect the polls, they prophesy. Labor replies that the polls already affect public sentiment. As for the second round, they note that it will be held after the Knesset race has been decided. If Barak's One Israel increases Labor's representation significantly, it might create a leftist parliamentary blocking majority, in which case Netanyahu won't be able to form a coalition. This might keep his haredi voters home in round two and make Barak the winner.

If anyone stays home on June 1, retort the Centrists, it will be Barak's Arabs. Going to the polls that day would be unpopular in their communities. By then they couldn't hide behind casting ballots for an Arab list. It would be uncomfortably transparent to all their neighbors that they are voting for the Jewish general. That could make Barak the loser.

Confusing? Not really. Either Barak is right or Mordechai is. They can't both be right. But they can both be foolish – which would make Netanyahu smart.

Dry Bones



The civil warrior

Middle Israel
Amotz Asa-El

The conventional warrior rose before dawn, drew ice-cold water from a frozen canteen, folded his grungy sleeping bag, removed the dusty camouflage net from above his chariot of fire, aimed the barrel at the anonymous enemy in the distant horizon and shot him dead.

"Shame," he later somberly murmured while leaning over the flesh he had just turned into a cadaver; the golden wedding ring on the enemy's middle finger, the black boots on his feet, the profession described in his ID, the photos of the woman and child in his vest's left pocket and the sacred little book in the other pocket, all so much resembled the warrior's own.

"How anti-climactic," he thought. After all those years of training, maneuvering and waiting for a succession of assorted generals, politicians and statesmen to finally overcome their fears and utter that magical, redeeming, cathartic imperative – "Fire!" – he expected a deeper sense of satisfaction, not to say jubilation.

"Well," he comforted himself, "the 'enemy' is neither this carcass nor its comrades, but their amalgamation and its collective quest to seize our land and wrest its riches.

"You know," he said, turning to the enemy while staring into his marble-frozen brownish eyes, "in other circumstances you and I could have been neighbors, classmates, maybe even business partners."

By the time the chaplain and his squad of undertakers arrived to put the enemy to his final rest, the sun had risen white as a shroud above the combat zone, baking the blood-soaked thistles, rocks and wrecks surrounding victor and vanquished.

While brief and accidental, the encounter between the soldier and his victim was anything but superficial; indeed, though he was leaving the scene physically intact, the conventional warrior left much of his wounded soul in his foe's makeshift grave.

THE CIVIL warrior's lot could hardly have been more different.

Since his enemy was spiritual, his cause transcendental and his battlefield galactic, he did not need to part with the comforts of his ordinary bourgeois life, nor ponder the consequences of harming the innocent, nor cope with the nerve-wracking wait for a higher authority's order to act.

And so, turbo-charged with all the self-righteousness, faith and conviction that his conventional antithesis so glaringly lacked, the civil warrior rose at a quarter to rush hour, sprang from his freshly laundered linen, washed against a snow-white sink's gentle stream of perfectly lukewarm water, and bit into a crunchy piece of toast. Then, having gulped an elaborate omelette, a green salad, a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and a mug of Italian espresso he tiptoed into his illegal radio studio and burped a call to kill one of his kith and kin.

That, they concluded, was how our ancestors lost the Third Temple

Though purely self-initiated, it simply perfected previous lines by prominent civil warriors, like the one about the opposition leader having ostensibly abandoned wounded comrades weltering in their blood (as the alleged felon heading the Ministry of Justice charged), or the confessed adulterer's charge that "they" – in other words, we – have forgotten what Judaism is.

Unlike the conventional warrior, the civil warrior felt he knew his enemies intimately enough to conclude that he and they had about as much in common as man and beast.

After all, both marksman and his target had already tried, and miserably failed, to be neighbors, classmates, even business partners. Seeing that he was as committed to his soul-correction cause as a physician is to curing the body, the civil warrior determined on his own the timing, pretext and nature of his next attack with the confidence and nonchalance of a doctor prescribing medicine for flu.

And much like the conventional warriors, the civil combatants also had their share of strategists and tacticians, the former circling targets as monumental as the Supreme Court, military service and economic productivity, the latter making do with broadcast exhortations against the bespectacled, balding, cardiac patient who leads the heretics among us.

And yet, while his etheric form of locking horns was no less potent than the conventional warrior's bullets, bombs and missiles, the civil warrior couldn't help noticing that, while skirmishing, he saw no dust, risked no limb and smelled no gunpowder.

Something, he would ultimately suspect, was amiss.

It was at that juncture that he ceased to merely squabble in court, lobby with lawmakers, vote sectionally – as was initially the case with America's Confederates – and otherwise nibble at the sovereign power's foundations, as Thomas Hobbes defined the civil warrior's cause. And so, having exhausted all democratic means of imposing his will on the majority, he proceeded to actively assault the state, first by shooting a judge, then beheading the king, and finally assembling a conventional army of his own and bombing Fort Sumter.

Ultimately, our civil warrior would learn that his weakness was much the same as that of the culturally sealed, morally abusive and economically dated US Confederacy. But even before that happened he was shocked to find that his hutzpa had provoked the kind of hot-headed zealotry that he had assumed to be his exclusive province.

Nut-cases, as it were, abounded on both sides of the divide, and civil warriors just as easily sprouted on the other side of the fence – like the ex-kibbutznik who struggled to pay university tuition while doing long weeks of miluim annually, only to be told by the Rabbinate that he couldn't marry his non-Orthodoxly converted Russian girlfriend, and ultimately threw a firebomb into a haredi yeshiva.

In later times Jews noted that while one Jew "jokingly" called for the killing of another Jew, the civil warriors' rabbinical elite chose to ignore this and focused on splitting the Ponivezh yeshiva, shielding Aryeh Deri and urging a religious woman to cover her hair before seeking a Knesset seat.

That, they concluded, was how our ancestors lost the Third Temple.

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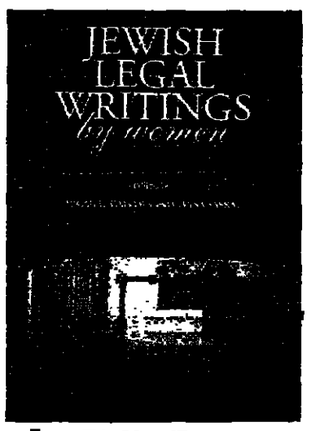
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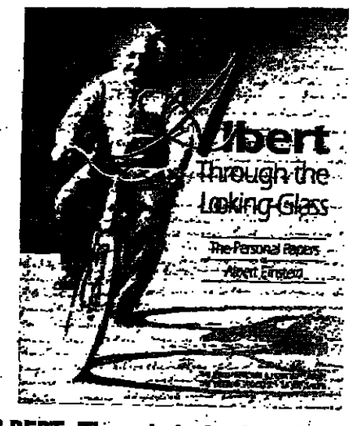
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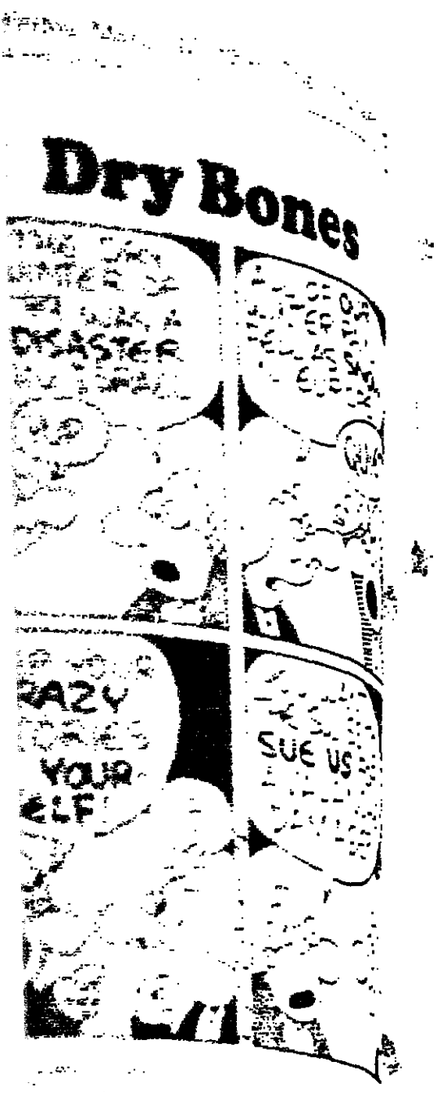
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Another story the media missed

Jonathan Rosenblum

On September 2, 1957, National Guardsmen, their bayonets fixed, ringed Little Rock Central High School. They had been placed there by Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus to prevent nine black students from integrating into the high school that day.

Two weeks later, the nine students succeeded briefly in entering the high school while a large mob, orchestrated by Faubus, was busy beating four black journalists they had mistaken for the students. But when the surging mob reached the gates of the school, the black students were removed to save their lives.

Little Rock Central High was not successfully integrated until President Eisenhower brought in crack paratroopers to disperse the mobs around the school and protect the nine black teenagers for several months.

It is safe to say that no group watched the unfolding events in Little Rock with more horror than American Jews, traditionally the most liberal group in America. Certainly it would not have occurred to any American Jew that the events taking place in Little Rock would one day find their parallels in the Jewish state.

Now they have.

A religious school opened this past September in Tzoran, a bucolic residential community of 1,500 young families nestling among the agricultural settlements east of Netanya.

Even before the opening, the school provoked mass protest rallies and threats from local organizer Gidi Bleicher that physical force would be used, if necessary, to block the establishment of a religious school in Tzoran.

Meretz saw another golden opportunity to fan the flames of religious war, and at a Shabbat rally in mid-October Yossi Sarid called upon the citizens of Tzoran to expel the forces of darkness from their midst.

When the 25 six- and seven-year-olds whose parents had registered them for the new school arrived for the first day of classes, they were confronted by a mob of 60 chanting adults, some of whom had brought along attack dogs and tied them to the school gate.

Somehow the principal summoned up the courage to march her charges past the screaming mob and the dogs, past the vulgarities aimed at her and her colleagues, into the school building. Once inside, she closed the windows despite the heat, as curses and stones rained down on the tiny two-room school for the first hours of the morning.

That scene was repeated every morning for the first months of the school's existence.

I WOULD like to believe that the mob outside the school did not intend to physically harm the children, despite the threats of physical violence.

But one thing is clear. Their intent was to terrorize little children by forcing them to run a daily

The intent was to terrorize little children by forcing them to run a daily gauntlet of verbal abuse and physical menace

gauntlet of verbal abuse and physical menace.

Subsequent events revealed that the protesters were prepared to go pretty far indeed.

The night of parent-teacher meetings in mid-November, they poured hot tar on the outside of the school and covered the school walls with disgusting slogans and pictures, causing tens of thousands of dollars of damage. Four people were arrested.

After a court threw out a legal challenge to the school's existence in early December, vandals broke into the school that night, smearing walls and breaking furniture. And the next morning furious demonstrators, again accompanied by large dogs, barred entry to the school. The school principal videotaped them, and four more arrests were made.

Not surprisingly, a few parents feared for their children's safety and removed them from the school. More surprising is that the overwhelming majority of the parents stuck out the demonstrations and the social ostracism, in addition to having refuse dumped on their lawns and eggs and tomatoes thrown at their homes.

A year ago those parents fit the standard Tzoran profile – young, educated professionals, and secular. That is their crime. For if the blight of Judaism can infect Tzoran, it can do so anywhere.

Some of the parents are still not observant, but they have decided that they want a Jewish education for their children. They have seen another side to their former friends – the ones carrying the placards proclaiming "A war between light and darkness" – and it has been, shall we say, enlightening.

THE protesters have reached truly Orwellian heights in distorting words from their plain meaning.

A widely-circulated pamphlet under the heading "A free Tzoran," calls upon the citizens of Tzoran to "enlist" to defend "the honor of man and his freedom." Another popular sign at the protests reads, "Enough of religious coercion."

One marvels at the mental gymnastics required to portray intimidating children and parents into not choosing a particular schooling as the furtherance of "freedom." And how, one wonders, is the honor of man advanced by hurling epithets at young religious women, scaring little children or turning the parents of those children into targets of abuse for daring to depart from the local orthodoxy?

The only religious coercion in Tzoran today is by those who cannot bear the thought of Judaism being taught in their Meretz citadel.

What we are witnessing is a reprise of the threats directed at poor, frightened immigrants in the '50s – that they would lose their Histadrut work cards if they sent their children to religious schools.

Same war, new means.

We have all grown a bit weary of Bialik's quip that the Jewish state would only find its place among the nations when it produced its own Jewish thieves and prostitutes. We have them aplenty – and Jewish drug addicts, child abusers, wife-murderers and rapists too.

And now we have our own homegrown Orval Faubuses and Bull Connors. Only their names are Yossi and Gidi.

In place of Southern rednecks and good ol' boys, we have our local humanists and enlightened ones.

Somehow I don't think Bialik would have been proud.

Oh, when?

Naomi Ragen

We took a trip to Europe last month to visit our daughter, who is doing her second year of National Service teaching Hebrew in a Jewish school in Toulouse. El Al was very helpful, giving out tickets to Europe at ridiculous prices, and so we met her in Marseilles, rented a car, and drove through the countryside stopping along the way at various spots recommended by our guidebooks.

We spent some time in Avignon, and Montpellier, and Nimes, each a beautiful modern city which carries its historic quarter like a jewel at its heart. In each we found the aging memorials to local sons who fell defending the homeland.

It was difficult to make out which statues were for World War I, and which for World War II, as sun and rain and exposure had aged both equally, covering them with moss and darkening them with the content of wind and air.

The military cemeteries, too, are old, as, I imagine, must be those who come to visit them. And in Carcasonne, a perfectly preserved medieval city right out of Disneyland, we found a museum of inquisitorial tortures that were used against the Cathars. Christians with a slightly different take on theology from their brothers loyal to the pope in Rome.

Everywhere we went, our guidebook pointed out reminders of the terrible religious and territorial wars that had raged through Europe for hundreds of years, setting brother against brother, the result of blind intolerance and small-minded hatred whose cost was countless lives.

Looking out at the sun-dappled, pastoral beauty of Provence, the old farmhouses that seem to have been around for centuries, the endless calm, it was hard to imagine such tales were simply not horror stories, made up to frighten small children around a campfire.

And as we walked towards his final resting place to lay a stone, we passed the graves of so many, many others – graves but a few months old, fresh with stunning floral displays, graves so new there were still no markers

And in our travels, as we neared the borders to Monaco or Italy or Spain, we readied our passports only to find – to our shock and delight – that there are no more border crossings in the New Europe. The stations, already artifacts of the past, are bordered up and abandoned, sporting signs in many different languages, all of them welcoming.

WARS over religious beliefs, or territory, or national pride – all this is ended now in the New Europe, where Frenchmen, Germans, Italians and Spaniards look back at the violence of centuries-old enmities bathed in so much blood as relics of an incomprehensible and primitive past long gone.

The new European is busy with ski vacations, and buying new cars, and listening to music. There is a mutual respect and tolerance – even interest – in each other's culture and religion, which is deemed each man's private business, something that does not concern the government, or one's neighbors. And the radios in Nimes and Barcelona and London are all playing Cher.

We felt calm and happy as we got on the plane to go home to Jerusalem. That is, until the El Al stewardess handed us a copy of an Israeli newspaper. In it, we found a picture of dear friends standing at their son's newly dug grave at Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem. David Granit, a charming, intelligent, religious, brave, wonderful boy, had just fallen in Lebanon. He was 22 years old.

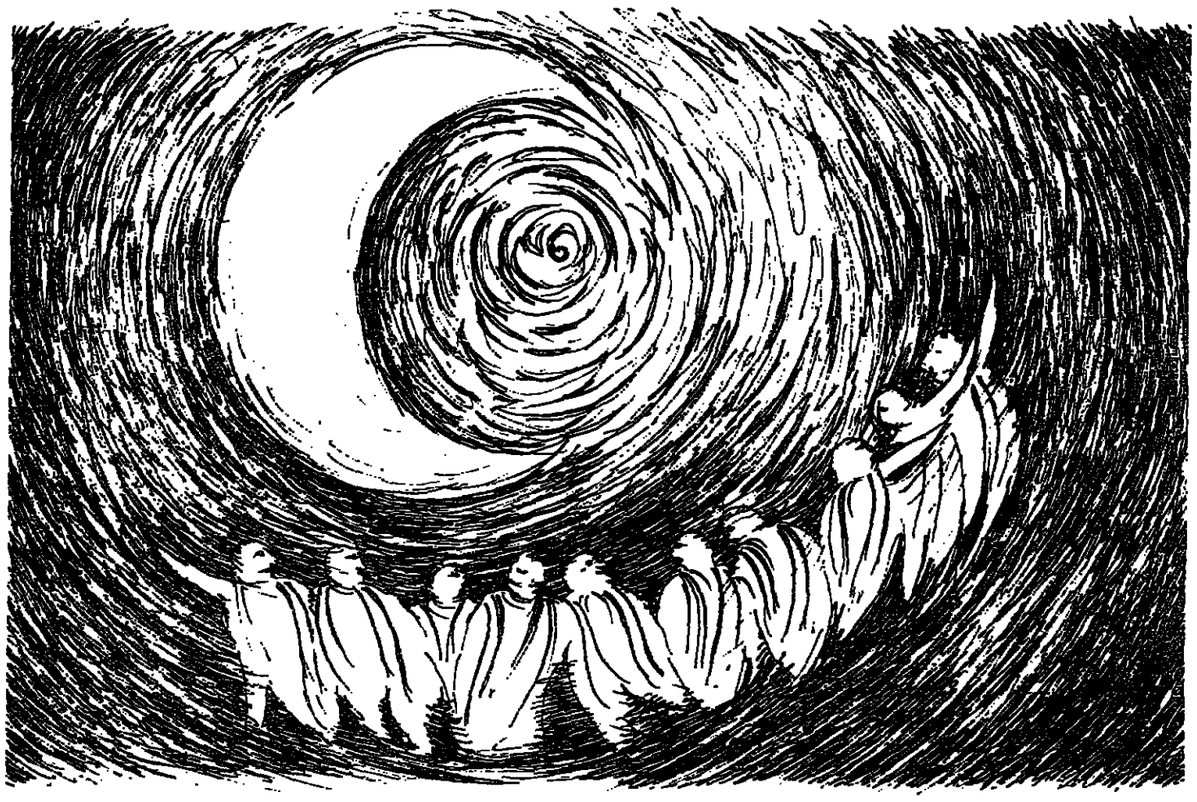
We missed David's funeral, but were on hand for the service that took place when his parents got up from their seven days of mourning. There we stood amidst a crowd of young soldiers in their red berets, David's friends, watching his young parents, sister and brothers (including his identical twin), bear the unbearable with such dignity and faith.

And as we walked towards his final resting place to lay a stone, we passed the graves of so many, many others – graves but a few months old, fresh with stunning floral displays, graves so new there were still no markers.

Oh, when will the military cemeteries of the Middle East grow old? Our war memorials grow moss?

Oh, when will we, all Semitic peoples, who are part of a culture much older and, therefore, potentially wiser, than our European brothers, put the barbarism of religious, cultural and national intolerance into a history long past?

When will we be horrified and appalled enough at the idea of settling territorial and other conflicts with bullets and bombs; disgusted enough to discard that option forever, making it a barbarous relic of a primitive time long abandoned? Oh, when?



Unforgettables

A View from Nov
By Moshe Kohn

When George Washington died, one of the epitaphs written of him was: "And take him all in all, we scarce shall look upon his like again."

This, of course, was a paraphrase of Hamlet's words to Horatio about his murdered father (1:ii:187): "He was a man take him for all in all, / I shall not look upon his like again."

Those who find Jewish influences in Shakespeare will see this as another bit of evidence. For the traditional Jewish mourning expression in eulogizing a newly deceased great rabbi, scholar, or just plain great person is: "*Haval al d'avdin velo mishtak'khin*" (*Sanhedrin* 111a; *Bereshit Rabba* 12:9).

This may be loosely translated as, "A pity about those who have gone, the likes of whom are so rare." And the final clause in that Hebrew-Aramaic formula may also be translated as "...and are unforgettable."

Both senses of "*...velo mishtak'khin*" apply to those who earn this epitaph.

One person who by all accounts earned the epitaph is Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, who was killed by a Hizbullah bomb in Lebanon on February 28. The qualities attributed to him are to one degree or another representative of the three men who were killed with him: Chief Warrant Officer Imad Abu Rish, Staff-Sgt. Omer Alkabetz, and Israel Radio reporter Ilan Roeh. It surely applies to all who have died in similar circumstances.

A comrade and friend of many years, O/C Northern Command Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, described Gerstein as "a person completely free of pretentiousness." Gerstein "was crazy about his family; he loved this land; he was extraordinarily creative, resourceful, and courageous."

Another comrade said that many young men from all over the country asked to be assigned to the Golani Brigade "because that's where Erez is."

ANOTHER unforgettable person who left us much too soon is the brilliant public servant and scholar, Yaacov Herzog, who died 27 years ago yesterday, Adar 23, at age 51.

Sir Isaiah Berlin, the Anglo-Jewish philosopher and political scientist, called Herzog "one of the best and wisest, most attractive and morally impressive human beings I have ever known." (Foreword to *A People That Dwells Alone: Speeches and Writings of Yaacov Herzog*, London, Weidenfeld & Nicolson; Hebrew: *Am Levadad Yishkon*, Tel Aviv, Sifriyat Ma'ariv).

"I shall not look upon his like again"

Having worked with Herzog for a spell in 1968-69, I second that estimate.

In June 1968 Herzog told a 20th Independence Day assembly of representatives of Orthodox kibbutzim that "from the political point of view... the central struggle" between Israel and the Arabs "will be about Jerusalem." Indeed it is.

On another occasion he noted that the Jewish people "is a paradox. All the normalities have been proved baseless. This is a nation that lives by faith... and everything is... intertwined in a process of redemption that... lies before us in this new era of Jewish history in which we have the privilege to live."

...a thought for our post-Zionist, post-Jewish, post-commonsense period.

ALSO NOT to be forgotten is a British Christian who taught the Jews of modern Eretz Yisrael the very vital martial science and art.

He is Gen. Orde Charles Wingate, who spent 2 1/2 years in Eretz Yisrael in the late 1930s training the Jewish Special Night Squads (SNS), the Hagana task force that he also led in actions against the rampaging Arab terrorist gangs. He died in an airplane crash in Burma on March 24, 1944, aged 41.

In talk to a group of SNS recruits, delivered in Hebrew, Wingate said:

"We are establishing here the foundation for the army of Zion.... Your people has suffered more than any other people. If it fights, it will achieve its independence in its own land."

The SNS men were later the nucleus of the Palmah.

Yisrael Galili, Hagana chief at the time and later a minister in several Israeli governments, said Wingate "not only taught us military matters, he also taught us Zionism."

Wingate's only child, Col. Orde Jonathan Wingate, born a few months after he was killed, is coming here at the end of this month to participate in the annual memorial service for his father initiated and sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of America Post 180/Jerusalem.

The plane in which Wingate met his death was an American one, and his body and the bodies of the American crew of five and three other British subjects aboard were burned beyond recognition. The remains were therefore buried in one grave in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, DC.

In Washington, Moshe Brodetzky, today a Jerusalemite and a member of Post 180, together with Rabbi Arthur Bogner, Ruth Frank, and Tel Avivian Joseph Hochstein, former publisher of *The Washington Jewish Week*, initiated an annual memorial ceremony at Arlington. Brodetzky renewed his initiative through the JWV after he settled here in 1981. The Association of [British] Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women (AJEX) has since joined in the JWV initiative.

Comments welcome at: moshe@jpost.co.il. Include full name and home address.

The beginning of months

Shabbat Shalom
By Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei

This Shabbat, being the Sabbath before the first of Nisan, in which Pessah falls, is called Shabbat Hahodesh, or the Sabbath of the Month. We read the very first commandment given to the Israelites: "This month shall be to you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you." (Ex. 12:2)

What makes this commandment worthy of being the first? Rashi's commentary on Genesis suggests that the entire Torah ought to have begun with this command! To add to our query, there are many Mishnayot (major texts of the Oral Law) which describe precisely how the new month is declared. To this very day on the Saturday night following a new moon you can see bands of Jews in front of the synagogue reciting praises to God and even dancing while gazing up at the new moon in a ceremony called *Kiddush Levana* or Sanctification of the Moon. How can we explain such a strange preoccupation?

First of all, this commandment to mark the month was given when the Israelites were undergoing the transformation from a loosely knit group of slaves into a nation of free people. And the essential difference between a slave and a free person can be summarized in one word: time. A slave's time is not his own.

Thus, when the Jews were about to become free people, God addresses their new status, and the first commandment reflects the contrast between what they've suffered for the past 210 years, and what they are now beginning to achieve: mastery over time as well as their own destiny.

Second, the first commandment directs Israel to establish the monthly cycles based on the moon's appearance. This symbolizes the dramatic departure from a civilization where the sun was king. Egypt was locked into a rigid hierarchy, a powerful caste system that controlled the entire population. Theirs was a world in which nothing ever changed. The sun was the symbol of this unchanging world order.

Indeed, when Kohelet wants to express the idea that things don't change, he declares, "There is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) Why doesn't he say, "There is nothing new under the moon"? Simply because "under the moon" there *is* something new: after all, the light of the moon is never the same from night to night. The moon's ability to emerge from the darkness and wax larger holds out hope for a better tomorrow.

In the ecstasy of having broken out of their narrow straits (*metzarim*, a play on the word Egypt, *Mitzrayim*), the Israelites are commanded to take note of the moon, symbol of change, hope, renewal.

I'd like to consider a third reason for this commandment. When we turn to the first chapter in Genesis, we find a rather unusual verse, regarding the moon. On the fourth day of creation the Torah describes the lights in the heavens. First we are told how God "created two great lights," and in the next breath we are informed "that the great light ruled the day and the small light ruled the night" (Gen. 1:16) – a reference to the sun and moon.

Rashi, in his commentary, addresses this apparent discrepancy by citing a fascinating talmudic midrash attributed to R. Shimon b. Pazi.

"It is written, 'And God made two great lights' and then in contrast, 'the great light to rule the day and the small light to rule the night.' Said the moon before God: 'Master of the Universe, can it be that two kings will share one crown?' So God said to the moon, 'Go and lessen yourself.' The moon said before God, 'Master of the Universe, because I said something before you which is true and fitting, must I lessen myself?' " God then refers to the sacrifice on the day of the New Moon, declaring to the Israelites that the Almighty wishes them to bring atonement for Him [sic!] since he lessened the moon. And the Rosh Hodesh *amida* prayer cites the verse declaring the sacrifice of the New Moon as a sin offering for God (B.T. *Hulin* 60b).

Now, if we examine the additional *amida* included in the Rosh Hodesh or New Moon service, it does refer to the first day of the month as being a time of *kapara*, of forgiveness.

But this may well refer to forgiveness of the Jewish people, not necessarily to forgiveness of God! And what does the new moon have to do with sin and atonement?

Allow me to suggest that this midrash is a metaphor for God's having created a world which is imperfect in the Latin sense of its being incomplete, of its including pockets of chaos as well as order, darkness as well as light, evil as well as goodness (Isaiah 45:7). When the moon argues that two kings cannot share one crown, she is making reference to the fact that jealousy is built into the very fabric of nature, and jealousy is the root cause of sin and the primary source of evil. The first murder came about because Cain was jealous of Abel's Divine favor, and theft as well as adultery enter the scene when one individual is jealous of another's acquisitions.

The Almighty opted to create such a world in order to leave room for human development, renewal and ultimate perfection of self and society. However, a world which allows for sin is a world of tragedy and pain, of unfair human suffering and bereavement. In such a world, the perpetrators of the evil need atonement – but so does the Author of the great drama which constantly forces good to confront evil, righteousness to wrestle with sin.

From this perspective, the light of the moon emerging from a black sky, the very waxing of its light, expresses the Jewish faith in ultimate renewal and redemption. We are commanded to search the darkened heavens for the first ray of light, to ponder the primordial lessening of the moon as a result of her jealous outburst, to beseech forgiveness of ourselves and our God for allowing for a world of envy and sin, and to anticipate the time when human beings will perfect themselves and their universe. Then the moon will emerge whole and unblemished, equal to the sun, *shemesh – shamush*, perfect servant of God.

Shabbat Shalom!

The writer is dean of the Ohr Torah Stone colleges and graduate programs, and chief rabbi of Efrat.

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While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Notices in this feature, which appears every Friday, are charged at NIS 42.70 per line, including VAT. Insertion every Friday of the month costs NIS 140.45 per line, including VAT.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

TORA PORTION: *Vayakel-Pequdei*

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REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel . 6276111,6281049.

PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Fri., Sat., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-6964.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Narkis St., Sunday, 10:45 a.m., Tel. 02-6255942.

JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

MORESHET YISRAEL – Conservative 4 Agron. Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Friday, March 12 – Minha 5:30 p.m. Shabbat, March 13 – Shaharit 8:30 a.m., Minha 4:40 p.m. Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

WHERE TO GO

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WHERE TO GO

HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thur. 11 a.m. from Bronfman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a,9,23,26,28. For info, call 882819.

WHERE TO GO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

WHERE TO GO

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM. (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition:The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael • Phoenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period • Illness and Healing in Ancient Times . Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat.10-2 ADMISSION FREE.

ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

Museums

OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Ninety Years of Israeli Art - selection from the Joseph Hackmey-Israel Phoenix Collection. Avidgor Arikha - Drawings. Hedva Ser - Abusson Tapestries. Jozef Israels, paintings. Issac Israels: Chronicler of Life. "A Point of View" - children's exhibition. Collections. **HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART.** On the Edge - New Art from Private Collections in France.Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-2, p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-3:p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, . Tel. 6919155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, March 12

Jerusalem: Superpharm Gilo, Gilo commercial center, 676-1873; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat. Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa. Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Bass, 66 Frishman, 523-7326; Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 767-3228.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 835-2484.
Haifa: Super Pharm Lev Hamifratz, 53 Hahistadrut, 841-6437; Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clalit Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7818.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall. 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Superpharm Malha, Malha mall, 679-3260; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.Tel Aviv: Grusso, 27 Sheinkin, 528-4791; Santas, 83 Ibn Gvirol, 524-6003.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Shoef, 78 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 748-1066; (evening) Shor-Tabatchnik, 12 Hasharon, Kfar Sava, 742-5850.
Netanya: Hadarim mall, 2 Hakadar, Industrial Zone, 862-8436.
Haifa: Super Pharm Lev Hamifratz, 53 Hahistadrut, 841-6437.
Krayot area: Super Pharm Kiryon, 44 Hapalmah, Kiryat Bialik, 877-9320.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 954-9903. Open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, March 12

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (internal); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, March 13

Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, orthopedics): Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology): Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE 100

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod*	8551333	Kfar Sava*	9902222
Ashkelon	6551332	Nahariya*	9912333
Beersheba*	6274767	Netanya*	9804444
Beit Shemesh	6523133	P. Tikva*	9311111
Dan Region*	5793333	Rehovot*	9451333
Eilat*	6332444	Rishon*	9642333
Haifa*	8512233	Safed	6920333
Jerusalem*	6523133	Tel Aviv*	5460111
Karmiel*	9985444	Tiberias*	6792444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hot-line counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems. MiLev Center for Crisis Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours). Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day; Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-950-5720.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jlm. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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It's the book, not the review, stupid

BOOKS OF THE CENTURY: A Hundred Years of Authors, Ideas and Literature
edited by Charles McGrath and the Staff of the Book Review. New York, Times Books. 647 pp. $30.

By MATT NESVISKY

I'm not sure the pun is the lowest form of humor, but I have no doubt the book review is the lowest form of journalistic hackery.

A pun occasionally is worth repeating. But a book review is rarely worth rereading. Puns can transcend their time, but book reviews remain yesterday's news. Even if reviews are reporting big news, it's the book, not the review, that merits interest.

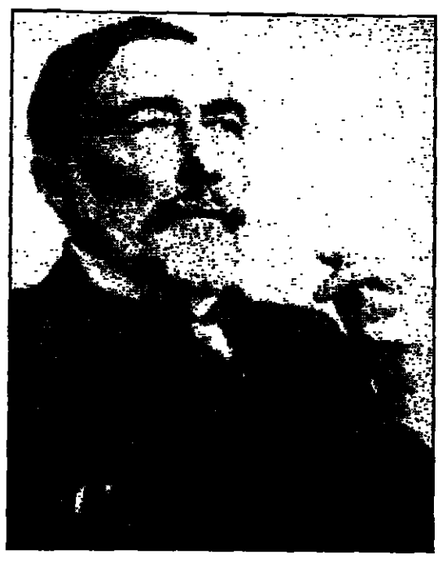
Essayists customarily pad out their non-fiction collections with book reviews, and such material indeed usually comes off as so much hamburger helper. Pretty risky then for the editors of *The New York Times Book Review* to celebrate its centenary by assembling an anthology from its yellowed pages, even if those pages come from what is probably the world's most influential Sunday newspaper book supplement. The great majority of the reviews collected herein in fact are of only moderate historical interest – and generally far less interesting than, say, the literary essays and even the letters and ephemera that accompany the reviews.

Sure, it's mildly amusing to know how *Lord Jim* was received by the *Times* on December 1, 1900. But I find much more valuable the interview with Emile Zola that appeared four months later – or, for that matter, the letter from Joseph Conrad published five months after that.

I'll accord a good book review the same sort of respect I reserve for a well-fashioned news story, but no more than that; I do not claim, as some do, that a review (or even its tonier cousin, literary criticism) is ever art; an interpreter may well be more articulate and even intellectually better endowed than an artificer, but we're still talking cider and citrus.

With all that said, there are clearly some fine reviews to be found here, such as John Updike's incisive report on J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey* (September 17, 1961), or, for that matter, Joyce Carol Oates's canny review of Updike's *Rabbit at Rest* (September 30, 1990). I also have to salute Dick Schaap's highly original comparison between Michael Corleone, of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*, and Alex Portnoy of Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* (the books appearing within weeks of each other in 1969).

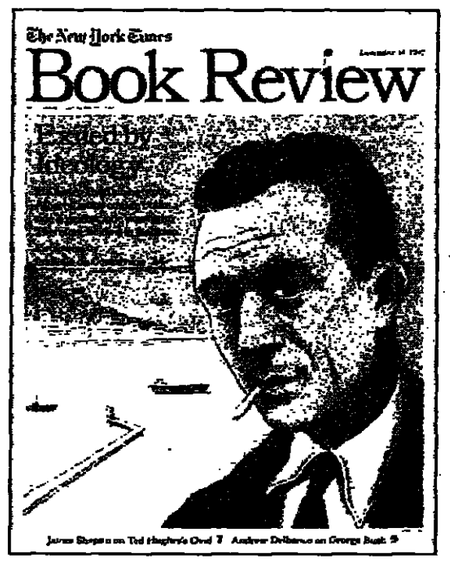
Then there are the oddities: someone (it's irksome



Joseph Conrad

that none of the reviewers in the anthology is identified) named Horace Gregory reviewing but apparently not comprehending Eliot's *Four Quartets* back in 1943; someone named John R. Chamberlain exulting over Felix Salten's 1928 novel, *Bambi*; someone named J. Donald Adams, a reviewer apparently so grateful for his free reviewer's copies that he seems compelled to declare every book in just about any year as the greatest thing ever put in print since the Bible.

Curious too is US Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan's praise for Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *Rebuilding Russia* (November 24, 1991), a rare paean from a liberal to an archconservative. More satisfying is Nuremberg Trial Judge Michael A. Musmanno's excoriation of Hannah Arendt's atrabilious and willfully obtuse *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (May 19, 1963). But what are we to make of James W. Gerard's review, on October 15, 1933, of *My Battle*, which among other things states: "Hitler is doing much for Germany, his unification of the Germans, his destruction of communism, his training of the young, his creation of a Spartan State animated by patriotism, his curbing of parliamentary government, so unsuited to the German character; his protection of the right of private property are all good, and, after all, what the Germans do in their own territory is their own business..."? Before you choke on your gorge, be assured that the reviewer quickly condemns the admirable Adolf's "persecution and practical expulsion of the Jews." Still, I am not much comforted when Mr. Gerard concludes: "It is with sadness, tinged with fear for the world's future, that we read Hitler's hymn of hate against that race which has added so many names to the roll of the great in science, in medicine, in surgery, in music and the arts, in literature and all uplifting human endeavor." This argument, that antisemitism must be condemned because it makes life bad for the likes of



Albert Einstein, makes me shudder every time I encounter it. Obviously some gentiles just don't get it.

To my mind the review of *Mein Kampf* clearly qualifies for this book's Oops! category. Perhaps acknowledging that this anthology virtually reeks of self-congratulation, Charles McGrath and his staff offer a crumb of corrective via the expedient of Oops! These are occasional marginalia that grudgingly reveal bad critical judgment. Examples are the trashing of *Howard's End*, the snooty dismissal of *The Catcher in the Rye* and the lukewarm response to *Catch-22*. Yet, like most journalists, the editors are mighty reluctant to admit to their errors. The reviews showing bad judgment are encapsulated rather than printed in full, their authors are unnamed, and in many cases the bad judgment is not fully revealed.

The most serious misjudgment concerning *Catch-22*, for example, was not in anything that the reviewer wrote but the fact that the review was buried deep inside the *Book Review* and not printed up front.

In any event, it's unclear why these reviews qualify as fodder for the Oops! column and not some of the other material in the book.

I'm thinking, for example, of the review on January 28, 1996, of *Primary Colors*, in which reviewer Michael Lewis airily identifies the political novel's anonymous author as Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos. For that matter, the editors themselves deserve an Oops! for having allowed Meyer Levin to rave about *The Diary of Anne Frank* (June 15, 1952) when Levin had both a personal and a commercial interest in promoting that book.

I also find what to crab about in the other marginal notes, the time-line of milestones in 100 years of publishing. Most of this is pleasing enough trivia ("1923 – Kahlil Gibran brings forth *The Prophet*; it is still Alfred A. Knopf's best-selling book"). But why should a time-line turn snitty? In 1960, for example, we're told, with Olympian irony, that "Allen Drury's *Advise and Consent* wins the Pulitzer Prize for fiction; Saul Bellow's *Henderson the Rain King* doesn't." Some think neither book worthy of an award, and in any case Bellow eventually won the Nobel Prize and Drury didn't – so what's the point?

Ah, well, differences of opinion, that's what lit crit and horse races have in common. To be sure, this is a welcome and very handsome anthology – the line drawings by Mark Summers are an added delight – and not least is the inclusion of many fine essays and interviews. I especially enjoyed Leslie Fiedler on Tarzan of the Apes, Alice B. Toklas on Americans in Paris, Saul Bellow on intellectuals, Philip Roth on Bernard Malamud, and John Barth on Minimalism, as well as the interviews with D.H. Lawrence, I.B. Singer and Robert Lowell.

In sum, one is tempted to declare *Books of the Century* a treasury for book-review lovers, only no such animal exists. Calling it a treat for book lovers should do.

CRIME BRIEFS
Alex Auswaks

AN ACCIDENTAL MURDER
by Robert Rosenberg. New York, Scribner. 283 pp. $ 22.

Retired police investigator Avram Cohen has lots of inherited money and, alas for his peace of mind, decides to write his memoirs. The memoirs promise to be a great success and poor Avram Cohen becomes what he hates most, a celebrity. Then the chambermaid in his hotel room is murdered. An attempt is made to murder him. His former assistant, Nissim, whom he loved as a son, is murdered.

Avram Cohen is told to leave things to the police, but he won't. He doesn't think much of his former colleagues. Besides, when his cat is murdered, he understands, as they do not, that there is a very personal element in all this violence.

Private nightclubs. Massage parlors. The new mafia kingpins of Israel. The trail goes to them, through them and past them. It is the darkness in the country's past that provides the motive, a darkness which at the time some, including Avram Cohen, thought was light.

A page-turner, despite the presence of 50 characters. Suburbs and streets ostensibly familiar to us and yet unfamiliar. A very subtle motive.

(Robert Rosenberg, who was once a *Jerusalem Post* reporter, today lives in Tel Aviv. This is the fourth in the Avram Cohen mysteries.)

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DAUGHTER
by Marjorie Eccles. London, Constable. 240 pp. £16.99.

Superintendent Gil Mayo, head of Lavenstock CID, has a daughter named Julie. Julie Mayo and Kathryn Conolly have been close friends since their schooldays. Kathryn is found murdered. Julie has gone missing. Is daughter Julie guilty? Could it be that she was the intended victim? This might be Superintendent Gil Mayo's most challenging case, except that he is excluded from the investigation. His colleagues know that he is not one to sit on his backside, letting everything go on around him. He isn't getting any official support, but there will be no interference either. And so, while Inspector Abigail Moon carries out the murder inquiry, Gil Mayo "assists." Abigail is assigned a woman superior and decides she prefers working for Gil Mayo.

The victim's letters are found, but they pose more problems than they resolve. Did she really see herself rushing towards disaster, or was that hindsight? There are people who wish to forget their past, hoping it is dead and gone, but in a murder investigation there is no scope for sparing the feelings of all those involved. One of them might be a murderer, and in this case the murderer tried to implicate an innocent person.

The case is solved using a combination of psychology and police work. The past had, indeed, reared its ugly head, set on some very ugly shoulders.

And if you leave your money to your children, do teach them how to handle it.

THE BIRTH OF A NEW MOON
by Laurie R. King. London, HarperCollins. 445 pp. £15.99.

Cults. As the millennium draws to a close, we must be prepared for a sudden rise in the popularity of apocalyptic teachings. Because of the dangers they pose to themselves and others, it is necessary to understand and communicate with cultists.

In investigating the legality of a cult community, the key element is information, accurately obtained and accurately interpreted. We have all seen the tragedies that occur when law enforcement personnel simply do not share a common language with a group of believers. The only choice is.... Thus Professor Anne Waverley.

Eighteen years ago, Anne Waverley's seven-year-old daughter and 31-year-old husband died in a mass suicide. Since then she had become a lecturer to the FBI Cult Response Team, a professor of new religious movements, and occasional participant in FBI investigations.

In this book she is asked to look at a cult called Change, headed by two ostensibly levelheaded men from levelheaded disciplines. The FBI file did not show any mild imbalance which might lead to a doomsday scenario. Yet Glen McCarthy, the FBI expert on cult behavior, is concerned. Anne is a bit fed up with him, but because of her past, feels she cannot refuse his request for her involvement.

This is an utterly fascinating book, and an intellectual treat. Interspersed between the chapters are excerpts from transcripts of Dr. Waverley's lectures. Section headings are from Sir George Ripley's *The Compound of Alchymie* (1652, but modernized). What characters! What a story for the end of the millennium!

Napoleon and the mountain people

NAPOLEON IN THE HOLY LAND
by Nathan Schur. London, Greenhill Books. Pennsylvania, Stackpole Books. 224 pp. £18.95.

By ALEX AUSWAKS

Two hundred years ago, General Napoleon Bonaparte, at the head of 800 cavalry, 370 engineers, 1,385 artillerymen (and 52 cannon), 88 camel riders, 400 scouts and 9,932 infantry (the troops were unpaid), 3,000 camels and 3,000 asses (stolen), invaded the Holy Land. On March 2 some of the French troops approached within three miles of Jerusalem. But Napoleon was not interested in occupying it, saying: "I do not wish to be annoyed by mountain people in difficult roads."

Was the campaign to open the way to India? Knock out the Turkish forces preparing to attack his base in Egypt? Prevent the British fleet from using the ports? What were his minimum aims and what were his dreams?

Napoleon conducted three siege operations. The long duration of the one at El-Arish contributed towards the failure of the campaign. Acre (the de facto capital) was a complete debacle, thanks to Ahmed Djezzar, and Commodore Sir Sydney Smith. Only Jaffa was a typical Napoleonic operation: forceful, speedy, ruthless and successful. The atrocities at Jaffa strengthened the resolve of the defendants of Acre. The poisoning of his own troops (suspected of bubonic plague) are still a blot against a commander generally considered humane. The great victory was at Mount Tabor, where he was outnumbered eight times and turned a desperate situation into victory. (He was always very particular about the names he gave his victories, part of the legend.) Ranged against him were Turks, Arabs (Beduin), Albanians, Bosnians, Mamelukes, Moroccans and Sudanese.

Napoleon was eager for help from any source, Matuwellis, Christians, Druse, Maronites and even Muslims. And, of course, Jews. Promises were made to all. Better outpourings of ink than blood, says the author laconically. But there was a vast difference in what was reported of his grandiose plans for the restoration of the Jewish nation, and the actual situation. For the Jews of the Holy Land the campaign was another tribulation in the long history of harassment and oppression.

In ruling over Galilee, he mastered the art of civil administration. At Acre he learnt the need for patience and detailed staff work. He was hurt by the criticism of friends and officers, and the insults of his own soldiers. Above all, he learnt never to panic. Were all these lessons forgotten by the time he got to Russia?

At least immediately Napoleon's importance was none too marked. Later generations viewed it differently. Pilgrims and consuls, convents and hospitals, a French Catholic patriarch, as France began to show an interest which had not been there earlier.

In a superb historical account, interspaced with discussion as to motive and opportunity, the effect on character, the author still tells us human interest stories.



Napoleon inspects his troops as they advance from Egypt to Sinai.

One such is about a French royalist colonel, Louis Edmond de Picard de Phelipeaux (a mere 4'10" in height), who had shared a desk with Napoleon in the War Academy. De Phelipeaux always came top in (artillery) class and Napoleon came third. They disliked each other intensely. Phelipeaux fought against Napoleon and died in the campaign. His gun emplacements at Acre helped to defeat Napoleon. Ironically, some years ago it was his easily identifiable body that was returned to France. The others lie in the sand.

(Nathan Schur lives in Israel. This is an updated version of his book in Hebrew.)

Netanyahu and the need to know

NETANYAHU: The Road to Power
by Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir. Birch Lane, Secaucus, 279 pp. $24.95.

By MICHAEL WIDLANSKI

When Binyamin Netanyahu won the elections in 1996, some Israeli journalists – perhaps those who couldn't stomach the prospect – were caught unprepared; their newspapers and other media outlets had not even prepared a serious profile of Israel's youngest and first directly elected prime minister. After all, the polls had said that the man didn't have a chance in hell of beating Yitzhak Rabin. And after Rabin was assassinated, the polls were even more sure that Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, would be elected by a large margin. Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir's book starts on the night that most Israelis went to bed thinking that Peres had indeed been elected – only to wake up to find Netanyahu victorious.

The book is written in a quasi-journalistic style, focusing on the dramatic moments of Netanyahu's life. But it is little more than an English translation of the book Caspit and Kfir wrote shortly after Netanyahu was elected. A similar book was written about the same time by another journalist, Ronit Vardi: *Bibi – Mi Ata Adoni Rosh Ha-Memshala?* ("Bibi: Who Are You Mr. Prime Minister?"); it was also hardly a biography, trying as it did to rationalize Netayahu's election performance. However, while this approach might just have been forgiven in 1996, it is unforgivable in what purports to be a biography of Netanyahu that appears after the authors have had the chance to observe him in power since then.

Readers deserve more than rehashed gossip about Sara Netanyahu and her baby-sitters, and about how Netanyahu makes – or doesn't make – decisions. As a correspondent covering the Prime Minister's Office, Ben Caspit (who works for *Ma'ariv* as well as for a Channel Two franchise) is ideally placed to provide significant insights.

But instead of insights we get voyeurism. Instead of a deep profile we get extensive superficiality. Sara pursued Bibi, caught him, and has since caused him problems. Great! Wow! What else is new? The second wife, Fleur, also pursued Bibi, caught him, but wasn't prepared to live in Israel. Gee! Caspit and Kfir also tell us that Bibi is really not a skirt chaser, but skirts usually chase him. What does that tell us about Netanyahu apart from the fact that women seem to like him?

What we want to know is why Netanyahu could face down Madeleine Albright one week and then collapse a few weeks later. I want to know why Netanyahu was able one week to scare Arafat, but then crawled back on his belly from Germany beseeching an audience with the same Arafat.

NETANYAHU, as we all know, came out of nowhere to take over the Likud from the "princes" – Olmert, Begin, Meridor, Milo, etc. – and then to defeat the savviest politician in Israel: Peres. What kind of stuff is this man made of? How can he be such a successful politician in May 1996 and such an impotent statesman several months later?

It is not easy to write about this country's youngest prime minister. He often fails to keep appointments with interviewers and is very suspicious of anyone who writes about him. He is also known as someone who carefully compartmentalizes information. It is clear that Netanyahu sometimes has several different negotiators dealing simultaneously – for example, with the Palestinians – without one knowing about the other. Why did Netanyahu decide to use attorney Yitzhak Molcho as his emissary to Arafat rather than former IDF chief of staff Dan Shomron? Where and why is Danny Naveh in all of this? What of Avigdor Lieberman?

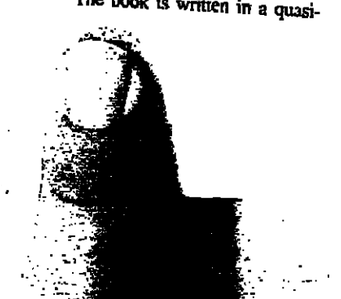
Caspit is known to have developed connections with Netanyahu's former spokesman, Shai Bazak, though it is not clear whether Bazak was willing to shed any light on the mysteries behind the man. It is also not clear whether Caspit and Kfir worked very hard to overcome their preconceptions. Kfir, for example, has not made the slightest attempt to hide his deep distaste for Netanyahu. This book is filled with snide remarks. Yes, Netanyahu certainly has faults. Absolutely. But one cannot explain this amazing 1996 victory merely on marketing skills learned at MIT, the UN or the Rim furniture company. One can thoroughly despise Netanyahu's leadership and policies and still produce a book that lets the reader examine the man's mysterious abilities.

Recently, *Ha'aretz* writer Ari Shavit produced two penetrating pieces on Netanyahu and his father, Professor Benzion Netanyahu, which arguably told us much more than this three-year-old retread. Caspit and Kfir do not appear to have gained any access to the family or Netanyahu's few close friends. The various snide comments about Netanyahu's father and some of Netanyahu's advisors (Dore Gold is frequently lambasted) appear to have more to do with the reticence of the subjects than anything else.

When I was researching a profile on Netanyahu I found that he had trouble holding on to friends. I believe I know why, and I'm sure readers of this "biography" would also like to know. Surprisingly, I also discovered that even a foundfriend such as Eyal Arad, who now works for Roni Milo and Yitzhak Mordechai and who deplores Netanyahu's personality, believes that Netanyahu may be the smartest and best educated prime minister we've had.

Natan Sharansky, who has seen Bibi at his worst and at his best, could probably have offered some eye-opening accounts, but one suspects his views were not sought. Sharansky told me, for example, that one of Netanyahu's problems is that he becomes obsessed with day-to-day tactics, thus undermining his own strategic skills. It was Sharansky's way of explaining how a man with a very serious world view gets distracted into, inter alia, managing his own press relations, for example.

There is clearly a lot about this man that we still need to know after three years – and ideally before we go to the polls to try to share the next four years.



هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

The strong totalitarian

MUSSOLINI
by Jasper Ridley.
New York, St. Martin's Press. 448 pp. $27.50.

By MONICA CROWLEY

Shortly after he assumed power in Italy in 1922, Benito Mussolini invented the word "totalitarian" to describe the state under his fascist government. Mussolini intended it to have a positive connotation: the totalitarian state demanded total commitment and devotion of all its citizens who would, in turn, reap the benefits of a strong regime.

Inescapably, however, it also meant the supremacy of the state, the use of brutal force as the means of exacting social obedience, and an unquenchable thirst for policies of conquest, oppression and annihilation.

Jasper Ridley examines Mussolini's contribution to this century's horrific experiment with totalitarianism in this historical biography.

By way of setting Mussolini's rise to power in context, Ridley does a serviceable job of explaining fascism as a response to the traumas of the industrial age, the iniquities of early capitalism, and the intense sense of class hatred bred by these conditions. Existing values and political orders in Czarist Russia, Imperial Germany and newly industrialized Italy collapsed, giving rise to movements – fascism, nazism and communism – that wrapped the concept of social justice around a message of social hatred and proclaimed organized state violence as the tool of social redemption.

Enter Mussolini. Born in the Romagna, a breeding ground for violent revolutionaries, he embarked on a political journey that began on the extreme Left and ended on the extreme Right. Ridley efficiently describes Mussolini by the roles he played in each chapter of his life: knife-wielding schoolboy, cagey draft dodger, passionate socialist, self-promoting newspaper editor, and murderous founder of the Fascist Party.



Mussolini: A major contributor to this century's horror.

Ridley gives Mussolini credit for being a savvy politician, able to portray himself as a responsible statesman while condoning the illegal violence of his terrorist squads, neutralize the Roman Catholic Church by offering appeasing rhetoric, and develop a pragmatic alliance with Hitler that allowed Mussolini to expand his own empire. His all-consuming megalomania made him a natural tyrant, and his rule made him one of the 20th century's poster boys for the corrupting effects of absolute power.

Neither a condemnation nor an apologia, Ridley's book is a straightforward account of Mussolini's life. This is both a positive and a negative. For those searching for a reference guide to the facts of the Duce's life, it is useful. But for those expecting a more enlightened understanding of that life, it is a disappointment. The problem is that the book reads like an extended entry in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It is full of data but wholly lacking in literary grace and expositional insight. For example, Ridley's discussion of the death of Mussolini's father, whom he idolized, is limited to five sentences, none of which describes the impact of the loss on his son.

At other times, Ridley gets so immersed in the minutiae of the contextual details that Mussolini himself often gets lost. Between the stilted prose and the overreliance on background, the book often casts Mussolini as a secondary player in his own story. As a result, he never truly comes to life here. One of the great archvillains of the 20th century — a man of brutality, passion and shrewdness – seems flat and mechanical and never truly inhabits the pages.

The disappointing failure to animate Mussolini and the lack of original analysis leaves the reader with no grander perspective.

Ridley might have helped us to navigate our prejudices about the man who coined and practiced "totalitarianism" but instead serves up an encyclopedic formula that sheds little new light on the dictator or his fearsome reign.

(The Baltimore Sun)

Sinatra's way

WHY SINATRA MATTERS
by Pete Hamill.
New York, Little, Brown and Company. 185pp. $18.

By SHAI TSUR



(DAVID RUBINGER)

Frank Sinatra's death last year took few people by surprise. The Chairman of the Board, after all, was 82 and had been in poor health for years. Yet, while his passing was expected, it was also significant enough to merit inclusion on many end-of-year lists of the most significant events of 1998. After all, this was no mere singer.

In a career which spanned nearly 60 years, Sinatra helped redefine American music. But beyond his singing, he was also an icon of urban postwar sophistication. This image helped fuel his popularity at least as much as his unique vocal skills.

Numerous books on the man and his music have been published in recent years. And while Pete Hamill's *Why Sinatra Matters* is far from the most comprehensive piece of work on the subject, it is a concise and entertaining argument as to what made Sinatra great.

Hamill's slim tome, less a book than an extended *Esquire* feature, looks at Ol' Blue Eyes through a number of different lenses. Perhaps the most important of which is Sinatra as the embodiment of the American immigrant experience.

Like many Italian-Americans of his generation, Sinatra grew up listening to ethnic slurs and dealing with the discrimination of established American society. Sinatra's subsequent success as a uniquely American singer was not only his own, Hamill argues; it was the success of children of immigrants carving out a place for themselves in American society.

In addition to serving as a beacon for American ethnics, Sinatra, Hamill argues, also provided a new archetype for American masculinity: the tender tough guy. He was a tender singer. His songs speak almost exclusively of love, loneliness, and longing. Yet, throughout his career, Sinatra also cultivated the image of a street tough. This combination, the author argues, was unheard of before and helped Sinatra's popularity with men.

When answering the question posed by his book's title, however, Hamill moves away from these main points. The reason Sinatra matters, he argues, is his music. Sinatra helped synthesize a new musical style, based on jazz, big band sounds, and American standards. The result was witty, sophisticated, and urbane, the perfect soundtrack to a New York night.

In one of the book's finer passages, Hamill analyzes the exact makeup of the fabled Sinatra sound. The singer was not known for the power of his voice or the tunefulness of his singing. Rather, the Sinatra sound hinged on the delivery. Sinatra was one of the first vocalists to harness the true power of the microphone (Hamill claims that the microphone was in fact his instrument). His musical phrasing and timing were both original and impeccable.

Hamill emphasizes Sinatra's music at the expense of Sinatra's image. The book is in large part an act of iconoclasm. He goes out of his way to deconstruct the legend of Sinatra, deflating stories of Frank's Mafia ties and generally skipping over the Rat Pack years.

He defends this approach by arguing that Sinatra's image had as much to do with his art as Hemingway's big-game hunting had to do with his.

Here, however, is the book's biggest weakness. The Hemingway analogy works, but the conclusion doesn't. The enduring popularity of Hemingway lies not only in the man's taut prose but also in large part to his blustery, macho image.

Likewise, Sinatra's lingering appeal has as much to do with Dino and Sammy, Ava Gardner and mobster Joe Fischetti, as it does with Nelson Riddle's lush orchestrations or Sammy Cahn's snappy lyrics. For better or for worse, he will always be as much the sharply dressed ringleader from the movie *Ocean's Eleven* as the man who sang "Come Fly With Me."

Actually, the best parts of *Why Sinatra Matters* deal exactly with this image. Hamill pulls out a few personal Sinatra anecdotes, about hanging out with the singer and a few other assorted tough guys at a New York bar in the early hours of the morning. They reminisce about various journalists they have known, then begin to argue about the state of popular music, and the jukebox begins to play one of Sinatra's songs.

This combination of the singer and his music is ultimately why Sinatra matters, and why he will be one of the most-remembered artists of the 20th century.

BOOK BYTES

By David Brauner

The success story of the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series (Health Communications), versions of which have been on *The New York Times* bestseller chart since 1994, is as inspiring as the books. Compilers Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen took the stories of their first volume of "Jewish penicillin" to 33 leading publishers, all of whom rejected it. They tried drumming up interest at the American Booksellers' Association Convention (BookExpo America), but did not succeed. Collections of uplifting short stories, parables and anecdotes "don't really sell," they were told.

Finally, Canfield approached Peter Vegso, founder and president of Health Communications, a Florida-based company that publishes literature for alcohol and drugs-recovery professionals. Vegso started reading the stories at an airport. "I could only get through five stories," he recalls, "because I was in tears. I thought, 'Jeez, I look pretty suspicious sitting here with tears rolling down my face,' so I stopped reading." He gave the manuscript to his partner Gary Seidler, who had the same reaction. Health Communications, pleased to get a shot at a book that had been rejected 33 times, began publishing "Chicken Soup" in 1993 with so-so sales.

Meanwhile, Canfield and Hansen pursued a "proactive" marketing campaign, seeking "five media hits" each day. They capped their evangelical style of promotion with a highly successful Mother's Day presentation in 1994. Sales took off. To date, the ever-expanding "Chicken Soup" titles have sold over 30 million copies in 30 languages. In 1997 alone, Health Communications' publishing operation showed a turnover of $85 million. That's a lot of chicken soup for the (accountant's) soul.

ILLUSTRATOR Erik Blegvad's 100th book pays lasting tribute to children's poet N.M. Bodecker, and their 57-year-long friendship. The two Danes first met at Copenhagen's School of Applied Arts as young men. Matching handlebar mustaches, their American wives (whom they both met in Paris), emigration to the US in the early 1950s, and a similar dry humor cemented their association, as did their working relationship.

Although there never was any rivalry between the two friends' careers, Blegvad accepted one project that "seemed to upset" Bodecker. In 1958 Blegvad translated and illustrated *The Swineherd* (Harcourt) by their most famous countryman, Hans Christian Andersen.

Bodecker died of cancer in 1988. Blegvad, who was in London when "Bo" took a turn for the worse, boarded the next plane for the US to be at his friend's bedside before his passing. Bodecker left behind a story-poem called *Hurry, Hurry, Mary Dear* (McElderry/Simon & Schuster), with several pen-and-ink drawings. His son Neils said: "[To my father] word and image were one thing together. You couldn't print his text without using his images." The only man who could capture Mary's spirit in color was Blegvad.

His paintings conveyed her posture and facial expressions, nearly identical to the original line drawings. *Hurry, Hurry*, completed late last year when Blegvad was 75, turned out to be his 100th book, and in "some ways it's his best work," according to the project editor, Margaret McElderry.

ALTERNATIVE medicine has been around for humans some time, but now it's moving on to pets. *Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats* (Rodale) has sold over 255,000 copies. "Trends in health care for dogs and cats mirror those for people," says Rodale editor Matthew Hoffman.

According to one Chicago bookshop owner, the store's section on natural remedies for animals is growing faster than its human counterpart. Holistic health for furry creatures is also booming in Australia. Animal homeopath and herbalist Cheyanne West has just published *Australian Tea Tree Oil First Aid for Animals* (Kali Press). Tea tree oil, made from leaves found in the bush, has been a first-aid mainstay in Australia for the last 50 years. For man and animals alike, it is considered far more soothing and gentle than treatment with harsh drugs.

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. **The Testament** by John Grisham. (Doubleday $27.95.) A reclusive billionaire, a burned-out lawyer and a young woman who works as a missionary in the jungles of Bozzi are brought together by a startling secret.

2. **Apollyon** by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins. (Tyndale $19.95.) After the rapture of the saved, the world's remaining believers confront the Antichrist.

3. **Southern Cross** by Patricia Cornwell. (Putnam $25.95.) A former police chief finds herself summoned to Richmond to clean up scandalous conditions.

4. **Be Cool** by Elmore Leonard. (Delacorte $24.95.) The former mobster Chili Palmer tries to make another movie, this one about a singer named Linda Moon.

5. **Ransom** by Julie Garwood. (Pocket $24.) In the 13th century, two Scottish chieftains come to the aid of a beautiful woman.

6. **A Sudden Change of Heart** by Barbara Taylor Bradford. (Doubleday $24.) When tragedy strikes, a woman turns to her best friend.

7. **Send No Flowers** by Sandra Brown. (Bantam $18.95.) A young widow and mother embarks on an affair.

8. **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver. (Harper Flamingo $26.) Five females, a missionary's family, narrate this novel set in the Belgian Congo during its fight for independence.

9. **Amy and Isabelle** by Elizabeth Strout. (Random House $22.95.) A teenager's liaison with a math teacher jeopardizes her relationship with her mother.

10. **A Man in Full** by Tom Wolfe. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux $28.95.) Life in Atlanta on the cusp of the millennium.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. **The Greatest Generation** by Tom Brokaw. (Random House $24.95.) The lives of men and women who came of age during the Depression and World War II.

2. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom. (Doubleday $19.95.) A sportswriter tells of his weekly visits to his dying college mentor.

3. **Perfect Murder, Perfect Town** by Lawrence Schiller. (HarperCollins $26.) The death of JonBenet Ramsey and its effect on the city of Boulder, Colo.

4. **Beauty Fades, Dumb Is Forever** by Judy Sheindlin. (Cliff Street/HarperCollins $26.) Judge Judy examines the problems that face women today.

5. **Reaching to Heaven** by James Van Praagh. (Dutton $22.95.) A "renowned medium" discusses death, the spirit world and reincarnation.

6. **The Art of Happiness** by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler. (Riverhead $22.95.) What Buddhist doctrines and common sense tell us about dealing with everyday problems.

7. **Traveling Mercies** by Anne Lamott. (Pantheon $23.) A chronicle of the author's journey towards faith.

8. **Blind Man's Bluff** by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew with Annette Lawrence Drew. (Cliff Street/HarperCollins $24.) American submarine espionage from the early Cold War years to the present.

9. **The Century** by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster. (Doubleday $60.) An account of the 20th century, complete with photographs and first-person narratives.

10. **First Person Plural** by Cameron West. (Hyperion $23.95.) A psychologist describes his struggles with dissociative identity (multiple personality disorder).

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. **The Street Lawyer** by John Grisham. (Island/Dell $7.99.) A young lawyer comes to terms with himself after discovering his prestigious firm's dirty secret.

2. **Memoirs of A Geisha** by Arthur Golden. (Vintage $14.) The life of a young woman growing up in Kyoto who has to reinvent herself after World War II begins.

3. **Message in a Bottle** by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner Vision $6.99.) After finding a bottle containing an enigmatic letter, a divorced woman encounters love.

4. **Black and Blue** by Anna Quindlen. (Dell $7.50.) After her husband turns violent, a woman flees to Florida with her son.

5. **Jewel** by Bret Lott. (Washington Square/Pocket $14.) The life of a poor Mississippi woman is strained and enriched by her daughter, who has Down's syndrome.

6. **Charming Billy** by Alice McDermott. (Delta $12.95.) At a party to celebrate a man's memory, many secrets come to life.

7. **Where the Heart Is** by Billie Letts. (Warner $12.) A pregnant teenager, stranded in a small town, finds caring help.

8. **The Reader** by Bernhard Schlink. (Vintage $11.) A German high school student falls in love with a former Auschwitz employee.

9. **Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood** by Rebecca Wells. (Harper Perennial $13.50.) Three generations of Southern women.

10. **Storm of the Century** by Stephen King. (Pocket $15.) The screenplay for the miniseries about a menacing stranger and a nor'easter.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. **Bitter Harvest** by Ann Rule. (Pocket $7.99.) The marriage of a professional couple in Kansas ends under mysterious, violent circumstances.

2. **Talking to Heaven** by James Van Praagh. (Signet $6.99) A "world-famous medium" discusses communication with the other side.

3. **The Perfect Storm** by Sebastian Junger. (Harper Paperbacks $6.99.) The story of the nor'easter of 1991.

4. **Are You Somebody** by Nuala O'Faolain. (Owl/Holt $11.95.) The memoir of a Dublin journalist.

5. **October Sky** by Homer H. Hickam Jr. (Island/Dell $6.99.) A memoir of Coalwood, West Virginia, where the author learned to build rockets. It was originally published as "Rocket Boys."

6. **Into Thin Air** by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday $7.99.) A journalist's account of his ascent on Mt. Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.

7. **Under the Tuscan Sun** by Frances Mayes. (Broadway $13.) A celebration of the Italian countryside.

8. **The Millionaire Next Door** by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Pocket $14.) An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans.

9. **The Seat of the Soul** by Gary Zukav. (Fireside/S&S $12.) How daily activities can be enhanced by feelings of meaning and purpose.

10. **A Civil Action** by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage $13.) A lawsuit by householders against industrial polluters.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. **Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution** by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon $14 and $6.99.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.

2. **Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul** compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen et al. (Health Communications $12.95.) Inspirational stories about love and relationships.

3. **Protein Power** by Michael R. Eades and Mary Dan Eades. (Bantam $6.50.) Two physicians offer a protein-rich, low-carbohydrate plan for losing weight.

4. **Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul II** compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications $12.95.) Inspirational stories.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. **Sugar Busters** by H. Leighton Stewart et al. (Ballantine $22.) A diet designed for losing weight, increasing energy and combating disease.

2. **How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have** by John Gray. (HarperCollins $24.95.) A guide to personal success.

3. **One Day My Soul Just Opened Up** by Iyanla Vanzant. (Fireside/S&S $13.) How to raise one's morale and realize one's ambitions.

4. **Life Strategies** by Philip C. McGraw. (Hyperion $21.95.) How to find what matters in your life and what to do about it.

Marriage and prejudice

THE INN AT LAKE DEVINE
by Elinor Lipman.
New York: Random House. 256 pp. $23.95.

By MORTON I. TEICHER

In 1877, a leading American Jew, Joseph Seligman, was told that "Israelites" were not welcome at the Grand Union Hotel in Saratoga. Such discrimination was the theme of Laura Hobson's novel (later made into a film), *Gentleman's Agreement*. And, in 1962, the Marx family of Newton, Massachusetts, was told (fictionally) that the guests at The Inn at Lake Devine in Vermont "who feel most comfortable here, and return year after year, are Gentiles."

Although 12-year-old Natalie Marx's mother tried to pass the incident off as a reflection of ignorance and bad manners, the young girl deeply resented the rejection and long harbored a determination to get revenge. She sent anonymous letters and made crank calls to Mrs. Ingrid Berry, the owner of the Inn. Three years later, Natalie managed to wangle an invitation to spend a week at the Inn as the guest of Robin, her camp bunkmate, and her Gentile family. During their stay, Mrs. Berry did not conceal her antisemitism, adding to Natalie's resentment

Some 10 years later, after minimal contact through the years, Natalie met Robin and was invited to her wedding, which was to take place at the Inn since Robin was marrying one of Mrs Berry's sons. The subsequent events should not be disclosed here save to say that, eventually, Natalie married another of Mrs. Berry's sons. Since Natalie's older sister previously married a non-Jew, the author may be saying that intermarriage is a solution to the problem of antisemitism.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. **Memoirs of a Geisha** by Arthur Golden. Vintage.
2. **Patchwork Planet** by Anne Tyler. Ivy, Vintage.
3. **Tell Me Your Dreams** by Sydney Sheldon. HarperCollins.
4. **Amsterdam** by Ian McEwan. Doubleday, Vintage.
5. **No Safe Place** by Richard N. Patterson. Ballantine, Arrow.
6. **Last Continent** by Terry Pratchett. Corgi.
7. **With This Ring** by Amanda Quick. Bantam.
8. **The Reader** by Bernard Schlink. Vintage.
9. **Jewel** by Bret Lott. Washington Square Press.
10. **Eleventh Commandment** by Jeffrey Archer. HarperCollins.



A chief's frontlet headdress, 19th century, painted wood and abalone shell, Tlingit, northwest Alaska
(Gift of Faith-dorian and Martin Wright)



Seal mask, c. 1920, painted wood and feathers, Alaskan Arctic Eskimo, at the Israel Museum
(On loan from the Wright family)



A late 19th-century clay owl figure, Zuni, southwest US
(Gift of Mrs. Cedric Marks to the Israel Museum)



Kachina Dolls, 19th-century, painted cottonwood and feathers, Hopi, southwest US, used to teach children to identify the various spirits that bring gifts of nature and protection
(Gift of the Wright family to the Israel Musem)

Destroyed by the whites

By MEIR RONNEN

A new permanent exhibition devoted to native American artifacts, ceremonies and rituals, ranging in scope from Alaska to northern Mexico, is now on view at the Israel Museum's Wright Gallery of North American cultures. Mounted by curator Yvonne Fleitman and designer Elisheva Yarchi, the display also features unique items from northeast Asia that reflect the Asiatic origin of native American peoples.

The opening of this modest but fascinating didactic display could not be more timely. I wonder if the museum is aware that in two weeks' time, about a quarter of Canada, all of it icy wilderness, will become the self-governing Inuit territory of Nunavut ("Our Land" in the Inuktitut language), with its capital at Iqaluit "the place of many fish" (formerly Frobisher Bay) on Baffin Island north of the province of Quebec.

Transport in this new town of instant prefabricated insulated buildings, where the daytime temperature is around 40° below, is by snowmobile. The only link with southern Canada is by plane. Prices are twice as high, income less than half of what obtains in the rest of Canada. More than 22% of the workforce is unemployed.

The territory comprises part of the Northwest Territories north of Manitoba, part of the west coast of Hudson's Bay and most of the Arctic islands to the north: Victoria, Devon, Prince of Wales, Bathurst, Ellesmere, Southampton and of course Baffin. Caribou in the region outnumber people by about 25 to one.

One of the main tasks of the new Nunavut legislative assembly will be the attempted rehabilitation of Inuit culture and a return to some aspects of the life reflected in the sparse Israel Museum collection.

Canada's shamefaced gesture may have come too late. Demoralized by laws against whaling and the breaking up of their clans during various relocations, and deprived by disease of the dogs they depended upon for transport and hunting, the Inuit hold Canadian records for alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide and unemployment. Demoralized addicts cannot hunt caribou and seal, nor fish from holes in the ice. Once members of an independent subsistence culture, most Inuit, drug-free or not, now survive on federal aid.

The museum exhibit doesn't give any figures but there are only about 20,000 Eskimos left in widely scattered locations; and more than 300,000 Canadian Indians, most of them living in reservations as federal wards. Their story reflects what happened to the Indian tribes further south following the successive invasions of Europeans. One of this show's texts alludes to the import of horses and guns to hunt buffalo as bringing wealth to the Plains Indians. Actually, it soon brought them starvation, with white men butchering the herds for hides. They butchered the Indians too, taking their lands and herding the survivors into reservations, where about half of the native American population in the United States remains today.

There isn't more than oblique hint of the brutal eradication of native cultures and the despoliation of their lands in this exhibit. There ought to be.

ALL OF North America's peoples (there were nearly 1,000 in the 17th century, speaking some 200 languages) derive from the great migrations across the Bering Strait of Asiatic Mongoloids, which began, according to the texts in this display, some 16,000 years ago. Many scientists are beginning to think that, given the development of various peoples all over north and south America, this figure could be doubled.

The Americas are of an astonishing variety of geographic conditions. As each tribe carved out its territory, its clothing, weapons, tools and art reflected local climatic conditions. Not surprisingly, the art and clothing styles of earlier northeastern Siberian cultures are similar to those of the peoples that settled the North Pacific Rim. The harsh climatic conditions had one great advantage: they did not attract competition.

Common to all these northern tribes was an economy based on skins and furs and salmon fishing; and the use of salmon skin to make clothing, footwear, caps, pouches, windows and the waterproof coverings of kayaks. Eskimo and Aleut peoples across a region that extends 8,000 kms. from Greenland and Labrador to Alaska and Siberia share a basic common language and culture, with dialects of Aleut, Yupik and Inuit. Living in a treeless tundra that is icebound most of the time, they were dependent upon animals, hence their development of a deeply animistic religion.

Like early hunting cultures in most countries, art to encourage the animals to give up their bodies for food and clothing became part of clan survival techniques; weapons and tools were decorated accordingly and in the long winters, figurines of animals and hunters were fashioned from walrus ivory, bone or soapstone. When, less than a century ago, Europeans showed an interest in these often beautiful objects, Eskimo peoples, like several African tribes, began carving figures for trade. Today, some Haida and Kwakiutl Indian artists around Vancouver are making striking modernist paintings and painted sculptures based on traditional totemic objects. Some of these are on view in the magnificent ethnological museum at Vancouver, where the exhibits are better housed than the Indians.

Earlier however, art for art's sake was unknown in North America. Art and decoration were made for ritual dances or the recitation of ritual poetry and saga telling.

Yet despite the applied art approach, a distinct aesthetic sense developed. It must have been early on that items of aesthetic value were appreciated as part of life's mystery and had enhanced mystic value.

ONE OF the fascinating – and in a way the funniest – exhibits in the Israel Museum's new display is a beautifully finished wooden table-cum-bowl associated with the *potlatch*, a communal feast that is a tradition along the western coast of Alaska and Canada. It is a wry reminder that for many thousands of years, status has been associated with wealth.

Given by a tribesman or chief intent on maintaining his social status, the potlatch might be occasioned by the raising of a new totem pole, the accession of a new chief, the completion or transfer of a house, a birth, a marriage or a even a wake. Like impecunious Israelis who, despite the burden of an overdraft, nevertheless feel bound to invite hundreds of guests to a wedding or a bar mitzva, these tribal hosts were often beggared by their effort to maintain or enhance their social status.

At the potlatch, hundreds of guests might be fed and housed for days or even weeks, with valuable gifts bestowed on each guest, some of whom may have traveled long distances by canoe. These gifts included cloaks, pelts, blankets, bowls, baskets, weapons, canoes, copper ingots and, long ago, even slaves. Today's potlatch host, we are told, parts with jewelry, cash and electrical appliances. Such largesse still determines tribal ranking and according to TV programs like *Northern Exposure*, is popular among upwardly mobile real-estate developers.

Feasts that beggar the host are not confined to Israel and Alaska. In Borneo a host may slaughter his only water buffalo at a religious festival and a hospitable Bedu his only young camel. Papuan tribesmen marrying off a daughter part sadly with their most valuable pigs. But ostentatious weddings, after all, are universal; in Europe and America, the guests are sometimes flown to some exotic location.

A FEW items in this display, located in what was previously a wide corridor connecting the pre-Columbian and African exhibits, were made by 19th-century Mexican and Plains Indians. There's an impressive Sioux saddle, some delightful Hopi dolls, Casas Grandes effigy pots and a suspiciously new-looking Apache (looks Sioux or Kiowa to me) war bonnet. Of special interest is a beautifully woven gambling tray made by the Yurok of California, for Indians had long loved to gamble. It is ironic that new riches derived from paleface pockets have now come to struggling Indian communities that set up casinos in extra-territorial reservations.

This exhibit is located in what was previously a wide corridor connecting the pre-Columbian and African exhibits, now grandly named the Faith-dorian and Martin Wright Gallery of North American Cultures. There is a new gimmick to the low lighting: it switches on only when a visitor approaches each showcase. Unfortunately, many of the English and Hebrew identification cards in front of the showcases are unreadable, being permanently in shadow, and can anyway be read only when stooping. *Hevre*, a pox on design! Just put the card under the object!

NEW PAINTINGS by **Wang Bosheng** (b. China, 1964), a Beijing art teacher, appear in his second show at this gallery, accompanied by some porcelain and paintings by his colleague **Ayelet Zohar**. Bosheng does accomplished, often beautiful paintings of bamboo in the classical manner that eventually became the Nanga school in Japan. He has a fine sense of composition and great feeling for subtle tonal effects and textured edges that impart mood and interest to his works. This time around he also shows formalized works based on the idea of freedom, contrasting birds in Beijing parks with those held in cages. The message is quite subordinated to the music of these charming and unpretentious paintings. Unsurprisingly, many of the frames bear a red spot.

In several of her porcelain vases, Zohar attempts the impossible in trying to unite east and west. A few of her fan watercolors, line drawings over semicircular swathes of color, are more successful, but suffer from being seen next to Bosheng's deeply rooted art. (Nora Gallery, 9 Ben Maimon, Jerusalem). Till March 20.



Wang Bosheng: Bamboo, ink wash (Nora Gallery, Jerusalem)

IN THE FRAME

Angela Levine

Wings for Peace, a huge steel sculpture, gifted to Switzerland by an association of former war refugees, was installed last month in a Geneva park. It is the work of **Dina Merhav**, recipient of the 1988 arts prize awarded by Haifa Municipality in memory of Hermann Struck. A graphic designer and art teacher who has specialized in monumental sculpture in recent years, Merhav has established sculpture gardens in different parts of the country, including at the Nesher cement factory at Haifa, where she has installed huge works in stone and metal in which the component parts are either machine scrap or huge stones brought from the Nesher quarries.

A resident of Ein Hod artists' village, Merhav is currently showing eight of her smaller pieces in steel and scrap metal in the members' gallery. The title of her exhibition, "The Angels Are Coming," continues the theme of her Geneva sculpture and other recent works which endeavour to express the gap between the dream – the desire to soar free – and reality. (Artists Gallery, Ein Hod). Till March 24.



Ofra Zimbalista: 'Icarus,' body cast, fiberglass and iron shavings

DAVID ("Dedi") BEN SHAUL is the second of four prominent artists invited by Gordon Gallery's Yeshayahu Yariv to curate an exhibition of his choosing. Ben Shaul, a veteran Bezalel teacher known for his landscape and figure paintings, chose works by artists who specialize in these two fields. His selection ranges from "historical" chalk drawings by **Anna Ticho** to contemporary figure drawings by **Zvi Lachman**. According to Ben Shaul, all the artists are (or were) completely committed to what they do, and "for a change" know how to paint or draw.

Ben Shaul's selection is on display at the Gordon on Tel Aviv's Rehov Ben-Yehuda till March 18. It will be followed by the "Artists' Choice" of Yair Garbuz (opening March 19) and Dani Karavan (opening April 2).

"AL HASOUK," Netanya's Municipal Gallery, is hosting first-time exhibitions of photographs and paintings by two young artists, **Yaniv Agai** and **Yael Dranov**. Agai's photographs, taken in Nepal, Burma and Thailand, aim to express the timeless qualities of the landscape and the inner tranquillity of the people. Dranov, an immigrant from Sydney, and a Bezalel Academy graduate, shows an unusual set of mixed-media paintings inspired by the love rituals of tribal communities. Common to the work of both is their attempt to express time, past, present and future, as a cyclic, ritualistic process. (Shaked Promenade, Netanya.) Till April 25.

THE FOLK History department of Dresden's State Museum is holding an exhibition featuring the architecture and history of synagogues in 13 cities around the world with which Dresden is twinned. The spur for this project is the ongoing restoration of the Old Synagogue of Dresden, built in 1880 by the Viennese architect Gottfried Semper and destroyed by the Nazis in 1938. The new synagogue, to cost DM 20m., is due for completion in 2001.

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا عن الأعمال

The shocking beauty of Malick's war

Movie Review
Adina Hoffman

After an absence of 21 years, Hollywood's own Rip Van Winkle, director Terrence Malick, returns to the screen with a World War II film that's marvelously out of step with the general state of commercial American moviemaking, circa 1999. Though one assumes Malick has not actually been asleep for the last two decades, he certainly managed to dream: *The Thin Red Line* is a picture of rare beauty and psychological complexity, and one that is in many ways just as shocking for the cinematic strategies it *resists* as for those that it embraces. Standard Hollywood notions of plot, character, narration, and even dialogue are dispensed with almost entirely; in their place comes a charged attention to atmospheric and emotional detail and, by extension, to a feverish state of mind – both in war and at war with itself.

THE THIN RED LINE

★★★★★

Written and directed by Terrence Malick. Based on the novel by James Jones. Hebrew title: *Hakav ha'adom*. 160+ minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children. With Sean Penn, Nick Nolte, Adrien Brody, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Elias Koteas, Woody Harrelson, John Cusack and others

The movie is based on the 1962 novel by James Jones and centers on the struggles of one American Army rifle company when it's plunged into the battle for Guadalcanal. We follow the troops as they ready themselves on the boat, then take the beach and move up through the hills. But the storyline, in any standard sense, stops there. Refusing outright the sugar-frosting of melodrama, Malick lets the shape of the skirmishes and sleepless nights determine the organic contour of his narrative – the bloody forward march is really all there is – and at the same time he plunges us deep into the transported, often crazed, point of view of the soldiers themselves. (The dim recollections of the side-sitters, one realizes, to the border this men must constantly walk, between clear thinking and dementia.)

As it dawns on us slowly, though, no one character here is going to step forth and offer himself up as hero, or even act as a lightning rod for audience identification. *The Thin Red Line* features no less than 20 serious speaking parts, many of them played by unknown actors, and Malick makes no substantive distinction between the size or importance of the roles played by relative newcomers, like Adrien Brody, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, Elias Koteas, John C. Reilly, Dash Mihok and Arie Verveen, and those portrayed by the film's big-name stars – Nick Nolte, Sean Penn, George Clooney, John Travolta, John Cusack, Woody Harrelson. Wartime gunfire does not distinguish between privates and sergeants or even generals, of course, and Malick adopts a similar approach to his cast list. The characters played by famous actors die off or disappear just as quickly as the others, and so the movie's unfolding feels more and more like an endless tragic parade of fleeting entrances and exits: we have little time to get to know most of these men before they're shot or vanish into the brush.

At the risk of gross oversimplification, it seems fair to say that Malick is interested in exploring the nature of war's randomness, of its enforced anonymity, and the way its dehumanizing demands cancel out personality, or subsume it. In this way, as in almost all others, the film stands in direct, audacious contrast to the year's other big World War II picture, *Saving Private Ryan*, since Spielberg's movie is, in its far more conventional essence, a tribute to the courage of individual soldiers faced with adversity; Malick, in turn, is extremely skeptical of such singular heroics and asks what cost to individual consciousness war necessarily exacts.

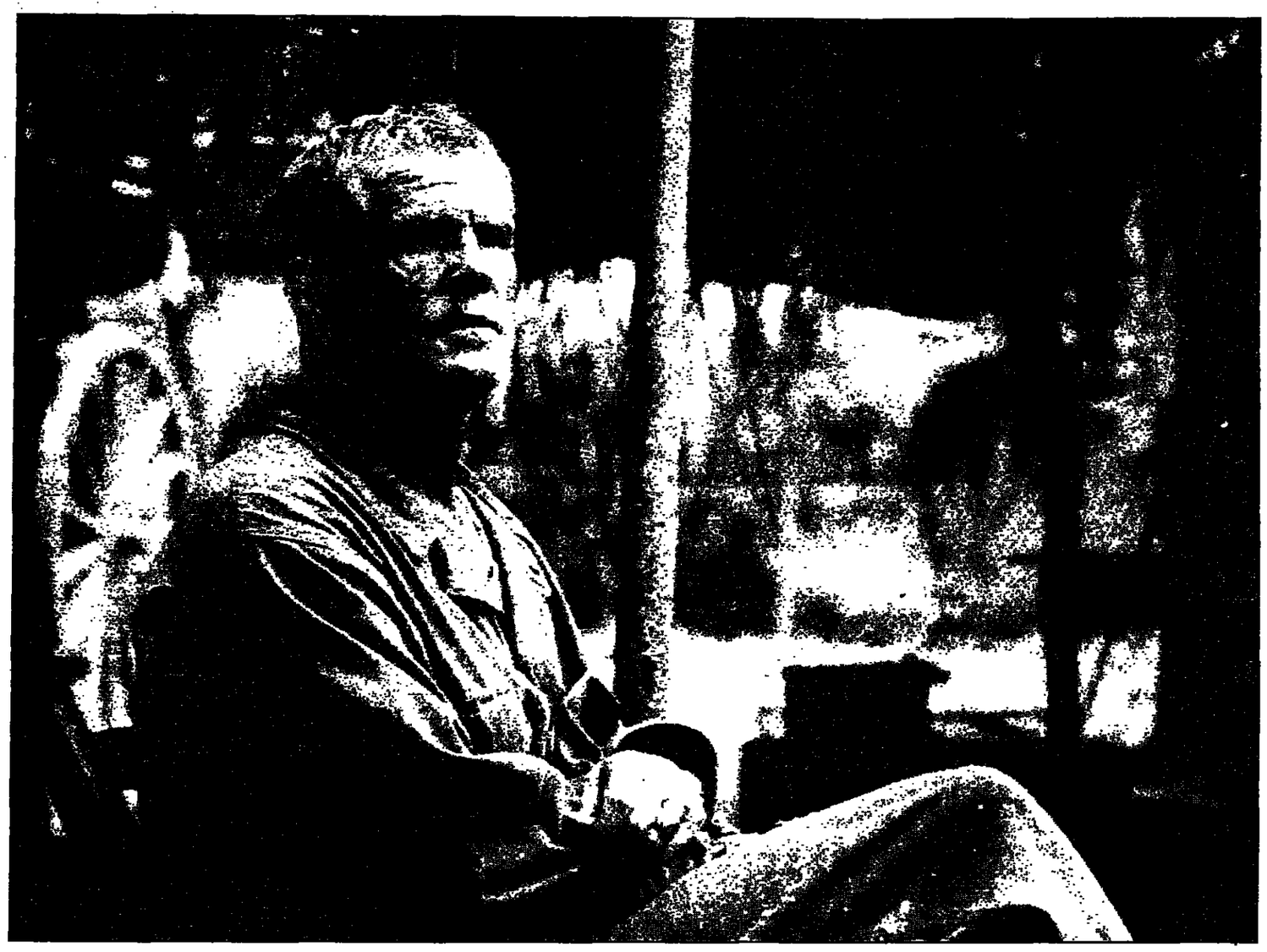
Throughout the movie, we hear the men's thoughts in whispery voice-over – though it is never quite clear just who is speaking, or how we ought to understand what they're saying. Many of their musings teeter on the edge of purplish banality. ("This great evil, where's it come from? How'd it steal into this world?" and later "Love – where does it come from? Who put this flame in us? No one can put it out, conquer it.") To judge from the use Malick has made of narration as an arch distancing technique in his two previous movies, we must wonder if he means their collective poetasting in earnest: Sissy Spacek's dreamy, slightly vapid teenager expounded on the action in – most in both cases at once ironic *Badlands* as if she imagined she and somehow quite poignant.

But in *The Thin Red Line*, Malick resists the urge to psychologize in the usual sense, and I'd risk a guess that he means for the narration to serve as heartfelt, lyrical (almost musical) accompaniment to the often brutal action taking place before our eyes. With these round-robin, verbal riffs he attempts to create a sense of the character's oneness or shared fate, as if *war itself* could think.

That is, to be sure, a fairly abstract idea for a Hollywood film to try and float. Malick pulls it off, however, by paying almost fanatical attention to concretion and to the story's natural setting. The reclusive writer/director studied philosophy before he turned to film, and *The Thin Red Line* suggests belief in a sort of Emersonian oversoul: as opposed to the blur of human characters, each blade of grass and mossy-green hilltop seems (as shot by cinematographer John Toll) preternaturally distinct and alive. Meanwhile, the vibrantly colored birds and mud-sunk crocodiles are not planted as fanciful set decorations; their presence, in fact, dominates, and at times we almost feel we are witnessing the invasion of the American army from the owls' and bats' point of view, experiencing the violation of their pristine habitat from their own suspicious perspective. Hans Zimmer's aching symphonic score and Malick's expert use of sound effects (from the click-click of spent cartridges rolling on the ground to the shriek of the jungle bugs) also add to the movie's pregnant sensory pitch.

The Thin Red Line does not, understand, make for easy viewing, and certain audience members are likely to find fault with those very aspects of this movie that I'm calling tremendous. The lack of clearly articulated characters and the meanderings of the action do sometimes combine to create a haphazard quality. Given the looseness of the outline, we may wonder for instance why the movie must last a full three hours, instead of a mere two.

But part of what makes the picture so strong and so unusual – so amazing despite its flaws – is the room Malick leaves for our own minds to wander through the moving tapestry he has conceived. Instead of underlining its themes over and over, and prodding us toward big emotions (as, for example, *Private Ryan* does) *The Thin Red Line* respects its audience's intelligence and allows us the distance and space we need to start to conceive for ourselves the horrible mind-set of war.



Famous actor Nick Nolte can 'die off or disappear just as quickly as the unknowns' in Malick's exploration of war's randomness.

People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc. People, etc.


Einstein

Notable Quote

"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough" – Albert Einstein in a 1930 interview. The renowned physicist's 120th birthday is on Sunday.

Camilla not invited to Edward's wedding

Prince Edward has crossed Prince Charles's longtime lover Camilla Parker-Bowles off the guest list for his wedding out of fear of upsetting Queen Elizabeth, Britain's *Sun* tabloid reported.

The newspaper said Edward, the queen's last bachelor son, had been given a free hand to draw up the guest list for his midsummer marriage to Sophie Rhys-Jones, but he knew better than to invite Camilla.

"Edward is well aware of the queen's feelings. He felt that if he invited Camilla, his mother would be extremely angry," the paper quoted a royal courtier as saying.

"The queen has no wish to meet Camilla as it would be seen as accepting her into the family," the paper quoted the courtier as saying.

Edward's older brother Charles was said to be upset by the decision.

Camilla has been romantically linked with Charles, the future king, for more than 25 years. He is said to be determined that she now be accepted as his partner after the 1997 death of his ex-wife, Princess Diana.

Tom Hanks hospitalized for blister

Tom Hanks was hospitalized this week for an infected blister he got while shooting a movie in Fiji, his publicist said.

Hanks, 42, got a small blister on his right knee sometime last week while filming *Cast Away*. He wasn't able to keep the blister properly dressed because of the tropical climate and frequent filming in water, his publicist said.

Beatles have a beef with steak house

Surviving members of The Beatles accused a New Zealand restaurant, the Sergeant Peppers Steak House, of breach of copyright, local media said on Tuesday.

The Christchurch steak house is a shrine to the 1960s pop group, with Beatles posters and records on its walls, but lawyers for Apple Corps – owned by the surviving Beatles and John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono – are reportedly not amused.


The Beatles

The *Christchurch Press* quoted a letter by Apple lawyers as saying the restaurant was designed to trick people into believing it was endorsed by "Apple and/or the individual Beatles." Apple had been alerted to the restaurant by Save Animals from Exploitation, a group whose motto is "meat stinks" and says the steak house is an affront to Beatles Sir Paul McCartney and George Harrison, who are vegetarians.

Restaurant owner David Wallace said he had followed legal advice to remove a silhouette of The Beatles from signs and menus and said vegetarians were welcome.

Magazine to pay Hoffman for cross-dressing scandal

A magazine that published a picture of Dustin Hoffman's head on the body of a cross-dressing man has been ordered to pay $270,000 of the actor's legal fees. The figure announced was less than the $415,000 Hoffman's attorneys had sought from *Los Angeles Magazine*.

"The judge cut their attorneys' fees back significantly and we were pleased about that," said Julie Hoover, a spokeswoman for ABC Inc., the magazine's parent company.

In January, US District Judge Dickran Tevrizian ordered the magazine to pay Hoffman $3 million in damages. ABC plans to appeal that judgment, Hoover said.

Hoffman, 61, sued over the March 1997 fashion layout in which his face, as it appeared in the 1982 cross-dressing comedy *Tootsie*, was computer-grafted onto the body of a male model wearing a yellow evening gown and heels. Hoffman sued for violation of publicity rights, claiming that the magazine's publisher, Fairchild Publications Inc., and its parent turned him into an unpaid fashion model.


Hanks

Jordan tops Forbes' Celebrity 100 list

Basketball superstar Michael Jordan has earned the top spot on *Forbes* magazine's inaugural Forbes Celebrity 100 list that ranked him as the highest paid and most "powerful" celebrity on the planet.

Those making the list are awarded a power ranking that measures both 1998 income and media buzz – a blend of prominence on the Web, magazine covers, TV and radio and in newspaper clips – that can also be a measure of future earning power, the magazine said in its March 22 issue.

While comedian Jerry Seinfeld made the most money last year ($267 million) and teen heartthrob actor Leonardo DiCaprio appeared on the most magazine covers (14), it was Jordan who cashed in big-time on his name recognition and turned his on-court prowess into $40 million in endorsement income.

The majority of the celebrities on the top 100 list are entertainers or athletes. Talk-show hostess Oprah Winfrey is No. 2 on the Celebrity 100. DiCaprio takes third place but is No. 36 in the money rank. Seinfeld is fourth overall and director Steven Spielberg is No. 5.

Rounding out the top 10 are the Spice Girls, No. 6; actor Harrison Ford, No. 7; actor/comedian Robin Williams, No. 8; singer Celine Dion, No. 9; and the Rolling Stones, who are ranked No. 10 both overall and in the earnings list with $57 million.


Hoffman


Eakes

Ad war between 'Private Ryan' and 'Shakespeare In Love'

With the Oscars less than 10 days away, a big-money advertising war is raging in Hollywood between the two best movie favorites – *Shakespeare in Love* and Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*.

Miramax Films, a unit of Walt Disney Co., has reportedly spent $15 million in advertising on *Shakespeare* ahead of the Oscars, leading DreamWorks studio to increase its promotion for *Ryan*.

Some Hollywood insiders say the heavy Miramax ad campaign is aimed at the 5,557 voters of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences who choose Oscar winners. But some studio executives say the ads are a clever move by Miramax chief Harvey Weinstein to promote *Shakespeare* while the box-office iron is hot.

Ryan, an epic war drama, has 11 nominations going into the Oscars on March 21, while *Shakespeare*, a romantic comedy about an aristocrat whose love inspires the English playwright to change a play he was writing, has 13 nominations.

Aerosmith singer sues ex-wife for nude photos

Steven Tyler, lead singer of the rock band Aerosmith, has sued his ex-wife in an attempt to make her return photographs taken of him in the nude.

Tyler, whose last name is Tallarico, said Kathleen Tallarico was supposed to give him the photos as part of their divorce agreement in 1987. Last summer, he said he saw a news item indicating she planned to publish "pornographic" pictures in a memoir.

State Supreme Court Justice Walter Tolub granted a temporary restraining order that blocks publication of the photographs until the issue is settled at trial.

Mrs. Tallarico, an actress, intended to use the photos in the paperback edition of a book about her life titled *Dream On*, said her lawyer, Jay Butterman.

Close call for Tommy Lee

There is no evidence that Tommy Lee violated probation by drinking alcohol, a judge said Monday as he gave the Motley Crue drummer a stern warning.

Municipal Judge Lawrence Mira warned another mistake could send Lee to prison for three years. The judge said he could find no evidence to substantiate allegations that Lee drank alcohol at a Miami club with his bandmates, as reported by the *New York Post*.

Mira stressed that Lee was not to even enter a place where alcohol is sold during his three-year probation. "I understand that," Lee said.

Lee pleaded no contest last April to kicking estranged wife Pamela Anderson Lee several times during a fight while she held their toddler son, Dylan.

In addition to requiring Lee to stay away from alcohol and drugs, the judge ordered him to stay at least 100 yards away from his estranged wife, attend anger management classes and undergo random drug tests.


Spice Girls

'The Bold and the Beautiful' star goes solo

The Bold and the Beautiful star Bobbie Eakes used her soap-opera exposure to sell millions of records in Europe with a co-star. Now she's going solo.

Eakes, who has played fashion executive Macy Alexander on the CBS soap for a decade, went double-platinum in Europe with her "Bold and Beautiful Duets I and II," sung with fellow soap actor Jeff Trachta.

Her as-yet untitled solo album was produced by songwriter Don Cook, who produced 13 No. 1 singles for the country duo Brooks and Dunn.

"I like a strong melody and singers that have big range," Eakes said Saturday. "I used to sit for hours with the lights off trying to hit Barbra Streisand's high notes and Karen Carpenter's low notes."

The Bold and the Beautiful has over 450 million daily viewers in 100 countries. The show airs in Israel every day on Channel 2 at 4 p.m.)

Compiled from wire services by Viva Sarah Press

Eye of the beholder



with Calev Ben-David

Given all the mindless and valueless trash flooding our TV screens, how nice it was this week to watch a program of substance that featured admirable personalities, made important social statements and offered the viewers a positive look at the more attractive, even beautiful side of this oft-maligned country.

Yes, I'm talking about Tuesday's *Miss Israel* broadcast on Channel 2, where most of the "substance" consisted of nubile female flesh parading about in various stages of dress and undress. But this year that part of it seemed almost beside the point – or so I tried to convince my wife.

The highlight was, of course, an appearance by Miss World and former Miss Israel Linor Abergil, who courageously addressed the issue of the alleged sexual assault perpetrated against her by declaring: "For all those who criticize beauty contests as 'meat markets,' let me just say that these are *our* bodies, and it is up to us women – and *only* us – to decide what to do with them."

She also promised to comment more directly on her ordeal "at the proper time," presumably when the matter has gone through the courts.

Abergil handled herself with dignity and grace, like a true champ. I couldn't help comparing the way she conducted herself with the TV appearance last week by Monica Lewinsky – although that's not at all to imply any kind of correlation between their respective experiences.

My point is that Abergil has so far struck exactly the right balance between openness and discretion about her ordeal, a formula that seems to have eluded Lewinsky.

Incidentally, sharp-memoried readers of this column will no doubt recall that I am one of those very people who have called beauty contests "meat markets" – less as criticism than simple description.

Still, as meat markets go, the Miss Israel contest is certainly more tame than most of what we see on the absurd 24-hour Fashion Channel, and at least its contestants are above the age of puberty, something that can't be said about the professional modeling contests like *Discovery of the Year* that Channel 2 also broadcasts.

And, of course, this year Miss Israel could even boast an ideological element in its choosing of the first Israeli Arab contestant to win the title, Haifa's Rana Raslan. I'm not sure how significant this really is – but heck, given the current state of the peace process, let's be happy with whatever crumbs come our way in the progress of coexistence.

Although Ruslan is certainly comely, I personally would have bestowed the crown on, or at least shared it with, Ashdod's lovely Chen Talala – not just because she was this year's token Ethiopian contestant, but because she deserved it.

In fact, I half expected her to take a page out of MK Adisu Messele's play-book, and rush the microphone to denounce the pageant organizers as a bunch of racists.

Anyway, congratulations and good luck, Rana. And, as Abergil herself wrote to you in *Yediot Aharonot* this week, take care of yourself out in that big, wide and sometimes vicious world.

BELIEVE it or not, there was a time when television-watching was a much more important part of my life – that is, before I actually had a life and was paid by a newspaper to sit in front of the tube.

Indeed, back during my lonely, maladjusted childhood, a highlight of my year was the kick-off of the network TV season, in which all the new shows debuted in the space of one or two weeks in September.

How eagerly I would peruse the special program-preview issue of *TV Guide*, reading up on the new season and planning my upcoming year of television viewing. Those were the days!

Alas, when I first came to Israel in the dark pre-cable era, the only new developments to look forward to on television were the occasional changes in the color and shape of Channel 1's *Mabat* news presenter Dalia Mazor's hairdo.

Nowadays we do have something like a new TV program season which, in case you haven't noticed, has been taking place during the past couple of weeks.

Why now? Apparently because of a stipulation that before new American TV series are broadcast on our local channels, they must first finish their annual season (usually about 22-24 episodes) in the US.

Besides having to readjust my TV-watching metabolism, there are two practical downsides to this. The first is that there are certain series relying on surprising plot developments which lose that element of surprise by the time they are shown here.

I'm sure, for example, that most local *X-Files* fans knew months ago about the long-awaited first smooch between co-stars David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson, seen here on the episode broadcast by Channel 2 this week.

The other downside is that some of the new shows being touted by our local channels have already been canceled by the time they get here. One of the series premiered on Channel 3 this week was *Cupid*, which has attracted a considerable cult following in the US. But how emotionally attached to the show can viewers here allow themselves to get, knowing that heartless network chiefs have already condemned poor *Cupid* to the Hades of canceled TV shows?

ALTHOUGH in the weeks ahead I'll concentrate on reviewing brand-new series like *Cupid*, *LA Doctors* and *Charmed*, let me briefly discuss a series called *JAG*, which after becoming a surprise success in the US, is now starting its second season here on Channel 3 on Monday nights at 8:25.

JAG stands for Judge-Advocate General, the legal branch of the American military in charge of investigating crimes, accidents and suspicious incidents in the US armed forces, and when necessary prosecuting or defending those involved.

The show's hero is a hunky JAG detective-lawyer named Lt.-Cmdr. Harmon Rabb Jr. – surely one of the worst monikers ever bestowed on a TV-series hero.

Last year I watched a few episodes of *JAG*, which despite wooden acting (especially from bland *Melrose Place* graduate David James Elliott as Rabb) and amateurish writing, at least boasts a novel premise. Alas, I was completely turned off by the presence in a guest-starring role of none other than Contra-gate conspirator Oliver North.

Although North is someone the real-life JAG should have thrown in the stockade years ago, on TV's *JAG* he was depicted as a good guy – one of only the many ways in which the series pushes a surprisingly right-wing, militaristic line.

Indeed, in this week's *JAG* episode another renegade colonel, who steals the Declaration of Independence and spouts anti-government propaganda straight out of the "Posse Comitatus" charter, was presented as an admirable figure.



The new Miss Israel, Rana Raslan, laughs and cries at her coronation. (Photos: Israel Sun)

SINCE I'm obviously not recommending *JAG*, why bring it up? Because with the State Comptroller's Report on the 1992 Tze'elim 2 disaster emerging as this week's top news story, I couldn't help thinking how differently the military investigations conducted on *JAG* unfold, compared to those carried out here.

On *JAG*, after a suspicious military accident takes place, Rabb and his JAG associates spring into action, conduct an action-packed hour-long investigation and invariably discover that the fault lies with either spies from some unnamed foreign country or members of a murky government conspiracy. Needless to say, the perpetrators end up behind bars or six feet under.

In Israel, after one of the many IDF foul-ups that seem to be on the rise, the government appoints an official commission of inquiry – whose members are never as young and sexy as the *JAG* team – that after months, or even years, of deliberation usually determines that no one was really at fault, and if they were, the most they deserve is a reprimand.

It's not surprising that former IDF chief of General Staff Ehud Barak was exonerated by the State Comptroller, since, on *JAG* it's never the heroic army commanders who are at fault.

But the affair does boast a real *JAG*-like villain in Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, a sleazy politician whose own army career was not particularly distinguished, yet who didn't hesitate to exploit the matter just to smear the name of the most decorated soldier in IDF history.

I guess Barak doesn't watch *JAG*. If he did, he'd probably punch Hanegbi in the face, or at least give him a stern dressing down – something Rabb does regularly to the bureaucratic bad guys on *JAG*. Oh well, only in Hollywood – and in Israel.

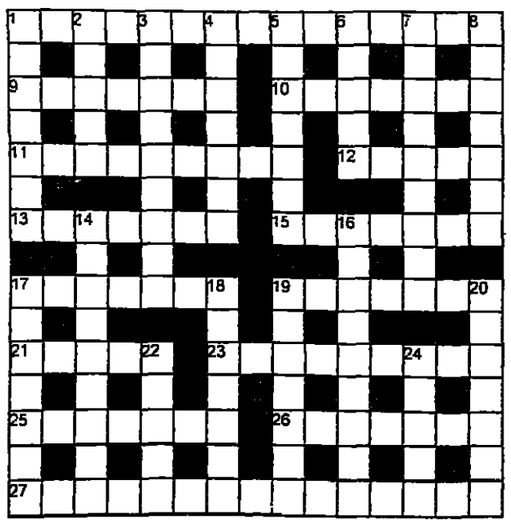
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Quarter size, but it's out of this world, (6,9)
9 Red China started border issue (7)
10 Respond to alternative power source (7)
11 Polite second-half share statement—again (9)
12 Letter from abroad is returned by Gemma, oddly (5)
13 First school to take care of lines (7)
15 Broadcast at a dire performance (7)
17 Go on about quiet childrens' toy (7)
19 Raging stream coming from mountain fissure (7)
21 Outstanding sources of original work in native gold (5)
23 Foreshadow a silly price (9)
25 Withdraw passage (7)
26 Stubborn worker chasing original partner (7)
27 Support youth when getting on a bit (6,9)

DOWN

1 Group's loud behaviour (7)
2 Marry, single and free at last (5)
3 Will men at work follow the match? (9)
4 Partners in God's mass (7)
5 Remain confused by source of rock salt (7)
6 Approaches auditor in case of news (5)
7 Don't start retreating in chaos—mingle! (9)
8 Recount how tear ran out (7)
14 True to life, turns tail and cries out (9)
16 Go quickly over directors' target (9)
17 Suit commander to be in the papers (7)
18 Stretching point—in charge after final (7)
19 A must in freak sea conditions (7)
20 Stood round and talked business (7)
22 Smile about a bit of corn (5)
24 A city doctor's fierce encounter (5)

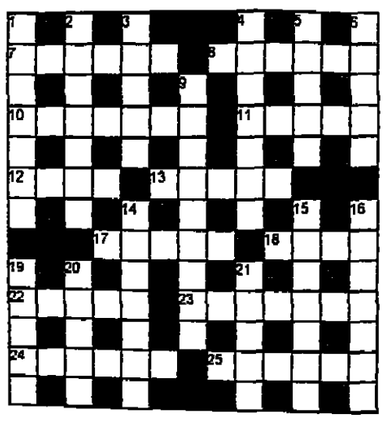


SOLUTIONS

CAMPAIGNER ASKS
HAS RELTW
ONSET ELUCIDATE
ITHAPKLE
CLEMENT THEFLAT
ERCA TIP
GROUNDSTROKE
SCONEONA
PLAYWITHFIRE
ESF ELFB
CASTLED ROUTINE
IETEMMNG
ONTHESIDE PRIDE
UTSGNIST
SLEW INSTITCHES

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Derry, 4 Licked, 9 Matinee, 10 Franc, 11 Noon, 12 Bracken, 13 Lay, 14 Oslo, 16 Earn, 18 Hod, 20 Ideally, 21 Spit, 24 Polyp, 25 Erudite, 26 Recipe, 27 Yield. DOWN: 1 Demand, 2 Ratio, 3 Yang, 5 Inflated, 6 Knacker, 7 Decent, 8 Derby, 13 Lollipop, 15 Shellac, 17 Kipper, 18 Hymen, 19 Attend, 22 Prize, 23 Puny.



QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

7 Aircraft (6)
8 Unwell (6)
10 Take in (7)
11 Strainer (5)
12 Listen to advice (4)
13 Intended (5)
17 Take illegally (5)
18 Lake (4)
22 Area for performing (5)
23 Disorderly accumulation (7)
24 Alter (6)
25 Acquiescence (6)

DOWN

1 Erect (7)
2 School bag (7)
3 Location for event (5)
4 Absent (7)
5 Tendon (5)
6 Monsters (5)
9 Pertinence (9)
14 Out of the ordinary (7)
15 Colonist (7)
16 Hide away (7)
19 Military steps (5)
20 Rot (5)
21 Tighten the lips (5)

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Greer Fay Cashman

Due to arrive in Israel in June is **Barbara Walters**, who may decide to interview the winner in the prime ministerial stakes. But that's not the reason for her visit. Walters is designated to receive an honorary doctorate from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The award will be made to her within the framework of the annual meeting of the university's board of governors.

NOT all MKs are taking advantage of the automatic increases in their salaries. Labor MK **Yael Dayan** is deducting her extras and donating them to good causes such as shelters for battered women and rape crisis centers. She can provide receipts for any doubting Thomas.

SPEAKING to the Forum of Female Industrial Managers at their convention at the Radisson Moriah, Tel Aviv, Meretz MK **Anat Maor** did a quick count of women in realistic positions in the upcoming Knesset elections and came to the conclusion that there will be 16 women in the 15th Knesset. The calculation did not include **Pnina Rosenblum** or members of Yitzug Shaveh, the Women's Party. Understandably annoyed was Women's Party activist **Lea Gruenpeter**, who, because she is still a political rookie, was too polite to leap into the fray to voice her protest. Gruenpeter handed a note to the moderator for the evening, **Oshrat Kotler** of Channel 2, then stood for nearly half an hour without being given a chance to make her point. Later, when she approached Maor to have a private word with her, Maor, who has long been in the forefront of the battle to advance the status of women, tried to persuade Gruenpeter that it was inadvisable for women to run a party of their own.

"What's she scared of," asked a disillusioned Gruenpeter, "that we'll take her seat away?"



Walters: honored

FOR actress-turned-politician **Naomi Blumenthal**, her decisive victory in the election for the post of world chairperson of Likud was especially sweet since it coincided with International Women's Day.

EARLY birds arriving at the Jerusalem Hilton for the capital launch of The Big Smoke, the cigar club initially promoted in Tel Aviv by Devidas Cigars in conjunction with the Tel Aviv Hilton, inadvertently became uninvited guests at the high-class haredi wedding of **Margie Halfon** and **Brian Spanner**, who came specially from the US to tie the knot in Jerusalem. The Hilton's general manager, **Ashley Spencer**, hosted a Big Smoke cocktail reception in the hotel's 10th-floor executive lounge which overlooks the courtyard where the wedding ceremony was held. Big Smoke guests instinctively headed for the balcony to witness the scene below and other hotel guests also came out onto their balconies to take a look, because everyone loves a wedding.

To celebrate the capital debut of The Big Smoke, the Hilton flew in chef **Jacques le Divellec**, who last year inaugurated the hotel's Aqua fish restaurant. Le Divellec infused some of the courses with cigar leaves or tobacco which gave them a distinctly different flavor.

Amongst the diners were **Shalom Kadosh**, executive chef of the nearby Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza, **Gila Netz**, brand manager for Alfred Dunhill, **Eddi Seet**, a cigar lover from the US, **Jacob Shaqed**, editor of the prestigious *Cigar* magazine, lawyer **Amir Nehmad**, who not only likes to light up himself but has like-minded clients, and economist **Elisha Shavit**, who has made the study of cigars a life-time hobby.

Cigars and their symbolism were all over the Aqua restaurant. Even the floral arrangements were standing in cigar boxes. But what made the event substantially different from its predecessors in Tel Aviv was that many of the smokers cheated and after a few puffs on their cigars switched to cigarettes. In yuppified Tel Aviv, the cigar is apparently more of a status symbol than it is in Jerusalem.

ISRAELI fashion designer **Albert Elbaz** had the fashion world sitting up and taking notice this week when he presented the **Yves Saint Laurent** Rive-Gauche winter fashion collection. The 37-year-old Elbaz, who spent nearly eight years working for celebrated American designer **Geoffrey Beene** before moving to Europe and making his mark at Guy Laroche, was snapped up by YSL president **Pierre Berge**.



Blumenthal: sweet victory
(Isaac Harari)

ALTHOUGH she had to attend a benefit function in Tel Aviv to aid the wives and children of convicted felons, **Reuma Weizman** made a point of stopping off en route at the capital's King David Hotel for the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Rotary Club of Jerusalem, of which her late father, Zvi Schwartz, was a founding member.

Both Weizman and her sister, **Ruth Dayan**, reminisced about how much pleasure their father derived not only from his Rotary Club activities, but also from the long journey to meetings and the people he met along the way.

Dayan also recalled the days when Rotary was closed to women and was pleased to note that Israel led the way in opening men's clubs to women. She cited, as an example, Variety, of which she herself had been a vice president.

When Jerusalem Rotary's current president, **Irene Lewitt**, steps down later this year, she'll be succeeded by another woman, **Alexandra Darmon**.

THE JERUSALEM POST Weekly Hi-Tech Supplement

ISRAEL

This Sunday: Helping Net vendors make money



هكذا من الأصل